

THE INDEPENDENT

Thursday 8 January 1998

Mo steps into the lions' den

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, will tomorrow take the audacious step of meeting loyalist inmates in the Maze prison. David McKittrick and Colin Brown report on an unprecedented move aimed at breaking out of the cycle of violence and pessimism haunting

Mó Mowlam last night denied her decision to visit loyalist prisoners - many serving life sentences for murder - was a last, desperate throw of the dice, or a public relations gesture. She was warned that the threeyear loyalist ceasefire was in ten highly significant role peril, at a meeting in London with Gary McMichael, the peace process. leader of the Ulster Democratic Party.

Ms Mowlam told The Independent that she was going to the Maze to tell the loyalist prisoners that the peace process was the "only show in town".

"If we don't move the talks forward, they aren't going to see progress on the things they

On the key loyalist demand for prisoners to be released, she added: "I will be saying to dressed in the context of the process. settlement."

the years, visited the Maze could eventually lead to the prison for occasional tours, withdrawal of the UDP from the Mowlam visit is for the spe- the peace process, followed by cific purpose of talking to rep- the collapse of the loyalist resentatives of around 130 ceasefire. members of the illegal Ulster of them convicted of terroristtype oftences.

One of their number, life sentences for the murders Eve. of three Catholics at a repub-

lican funeral in 1988. The news will be seen as a bold initiative by a highly active Northern Ireland Secretary, who has made personal contact one of the keynotes of her approach.

In one sense, the prisoners may be well-disposed towards her in that they will be impressed by the gesture of a Cabinet minister entering to Maze to hear their complaints in person. On the other hand they will not be pleased by her stance that accelerated releases are not on the immediate agenda.

Ministers have often met exprisoners - indeed most of those on the Sinn Fein and loyalist teams at the Stormont multi-party talks have heen hehind bars, some serving sentences for murder. But tomorrow's visit is seen as ground-hreaking in its sym-

If it works, it will presumably be followed sooner or later by meetings with serving IRA prisoners. It will certainly be seen as a recognition of the ofplayed by prisoners in the

Although most of the UDA's prisoners approved of the organisation's ceasefire in 1994, many are since said to have become disillusioned by the lack of movement towards early releases from jail. Last weekend a majority of them voted to withhold their support from the peace process.

On Tuesday they apparently gave a rough ride to Gary McMichael, leader of the UDP, the UDA's political wing, when them that questions like pris- he attempted to persuade them oner release will have to be ad- to persevere with the peace

The general fear is that the While ministers have, over souring of the prisoners' mood

It is already suspected, in have made an unavowed return to violence by taking part in the killing of a Catholic man in

Mr McMichael said yesterday: "She is taking a risk in making this decision and we welcome that. Of course we have to look and see whether all we are doing is shifting the cently been highly critical of hoping to "kick-start" the point of crisis from today to the the Government, appears to talks by pushing for speedy



Michael Stone, is serving three north Belfast on New Year's Bold move: Mo Mowlam is setting out to rebuild confidence in the talks process

have we overcome the diffi- meeting on Tuesday with Tony culties.'

Maze on Friday. By no means have been mollified by its progress.

Blair, which was by all ac-Meanwhile the Ulster counts a constructive en-Unionist Party, which has re- counter. The Government is

bridge-building also seems to ster Volunteer Force. have been achieved at a meeting yesterday between the Irish foreign minister. David sive Unionist Party, which Monday,

A certain amount of speaks for the paramilitary UI-

Photograph: Kevin Lamarque

It is still, however, by no means certain that the PUP will he at the multi-party Andrews, and the Progres- talks when they resume on

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TODAY'S NEWS

Human clone pioneer dismisses ethical doubts

The US scientist who plans to set up the world's first Human Clone Clinic said yesterday he could see nothing wrong with producing endless identical human beings. Richard Seed, a physicist who wants to offer infertile couples the chance to clone an identical twin of themselves, claimed to have four couples willing to go ahead with the experiments. "Any new subject creates fear. It doesn't matter whether it's reproduction or automobiles," he said. Page 3

Psychopath convicted

Vat Complete

A homeless teenager who plunged a knife into the head of a woman travelling alone on a train was convicted yesterday of attempted murder. Robert Buckland, IB, was remanded for psychiatric reports until next month when he will be sentenced. His victim, Alison Kennedy, 28, miraculously survived the attack in which the five-inch bladed Bowie style hunting knife had to be removed from her head in hospital. Buckland said he had intended to snatch Miss Kennedy's handbag but had thrust the knife into her skull in a rush of anger. Page 8

Heyerdahl was wrong

Fifty years ago. Thor Heyerdahl and the Kon-Tiki expedition appeared to prove that ancient humans could have sailed west from South American to colonise the Pacific Islands. But DNA evidence now shows his hypothesis was wrong and that his great adventure may have been misplaced. Page 9

Why women work better but men work more successfully

Men measure their success by promotion and pay increases, while women are more concerned about doing their job properly. Barrie Clement, Labour Editor, finds there is a considerable "gender gap" between the aspirations of male and female managers.

Women like to be thanked for their performance as managers. hut men simply want to be propelled up the hierarchy and

paid more. Employers need to recognise the difference between the personal satisfaction women tend to strive for and the more hardnosed and concrete rewards desired by men, according to a psychologist.

Jane Sturges, of Birkbeck College, University of London, identifies four different types of managers among 36 employees at BT - from those occupying positions just below board levels to supervisors.

Doctor Sturges describes the "climber" as the person who strives for recognition through traditional "external" criteria and whose goal is to achieve the most senior level of management. All seven of the employ-



ees in this category were men mostly relatively young. Having an influence at

work is not enough for them to feel successful, they have to achieve a perceived status too." Doctor Sturges told the British Psychological Society's annual occupational psychology conference at Eastbourne. Climbers need to enjoy their work, but are very "goal oriented" in their attitude to career

"The managers who fall into this category as a rule set themselves regular stretching goals and targets relating to their level of pay and their position in the hierarchy. Related to this emphasis on career goals. the climber often has a strong competitive instinct."

The "expert" sees success in terms of competency at their job and being recognised personally for being good at what they do.

Seven women and just two men were classified as experts.

They like to be regarded as forts and derives considerable dominantly older. satisfaction from winning • Even the most enlightened

the job they do is more important than their position in the hierarchy or their status within the organisation," says Doctor chip companies, the Commis-Sturges. The "influencer" wants to

work for and has little regard for - cedures. promotion. For older influon their organisation is exfremely important. They want to

taining a level of responsibility. Some managers have tried to achieve influence by involvement in activity outside their normal remit. The "selfrealiser" thinks of achievement in "very personal" terms and in a way which means little to other people. Their desire to achieve on their own terms will override the value they place on traditional career success. Solf-realisers find it essential that they find their work challenging at a personal level.

For younger influencers, suc-

cess would be achieved by ar-

Age was also a crucial factor in determining which type specialists and seek the respect of career success a manager of colleagues. The expert likes favoured, Most of the climbers to receive "positive feedback", were relatively young and most wants to be thanked for their el- of the influencers were pre-

employers are nearly twice as "To experts, the content of likely to take on white joh applicants than those from ethnic

In a study of eleven bluesion for Racial Equality found that black candidates consishave a "tangible and positive ef-tently fell at two of the three feet" on the organisation they main burdles in selection pro-

The main obstacles were enencers the idea of leaving a mark - countered at the initial sift of application forms and at the final assessment centre stage where gain autonomy at work, espe-groups of applicants are scored cially those managers who have on a variety of exercises over a period of one or two days.

"A GLORIOUS FILM.

HELENA BONHAM CARTER DESERVES TO WIN AN OSCAR, PLEASE DON'T miss it".

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> "SUMPTUOUS, SMART AND FULL OF GLAMOUR".

"RAVISHING TO LOOKAT... ABSORBINGLY CRAFTED AND PLAYED".



HELENA BONHAM CARTER LINUS ROACHE ALISON ELLIOTT THE WINGS OF THE DOVE

now showing

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not reached senior levels.

Barnsley's bonny lasses jeer player's own goal

The bonny lasses of Barnsley are refusing to take criticism lying down. For when the niwn's adopted footballer, Georgi Hristov, complains that they are all ugly beeries, what do they do? They stage a beauty contest and invite him to judge it.

The Macedonian international striker must be rueing the day be made public his feelings about Barnsley babes. "I'm finding it difficult to find a girlfriend in Barnsley, or indeed settle into a decent way of life," he told a magazine in Belgrade. "The local girls are far uglier than the ones back in Belgrade or Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, where I come from. Our women are much prettier. Besides they don't drink as much beer as the Barnsley girls which is something I don't like at all."

Now two local barmaids, Donna Carman and Tina Powers, are striking back. They are planning a beauty contest at the town's O'Neill's Bar where they work and they want the 21-year-old Hristov to select a winner. "Barnsley women are very outgoing," said Ms Carman, 32. "There are plenty of good looking ones coming in here. They go out once or twice a week to enjoy themselves and forget about the woes of the week."

Ms Powers, 30, could not understand what the player, who was signed from Partizan Belgrade for £1.5m in the summer, was talking about. "He can't find a girlfriend. Is he



Pulling power: The Barnsley barmaids organising a beauty contest for Hristov

rently bottom of the Premiership - and off. things

kidding - in Barnsley?"

If Hristov has heen

finding life hard on the

field - the Tykes are cur-

are now taking a turn for the even worse. His interview has become one of the higgest talking points since two years ago a book called Top Towns singled out Barnsley, in South Yorkshire, as the worst

place to live in Britain. John Dennis, chairman

of Barnsley FC, yesterday moved quickly to limit the damage caused by his player. "Just after Georgi had arrived in Barnsley six months ago he had an interview with a freelance reporter from over there [Yugoslavia] in which it was asked if he was happy in England," he said. "He said at the time he missed all his friends, family and girlfriend, It seems a journalist somewhere has seen this old article and exaggerated it heyond all recognition."

But the Barnsley women won't be easily persuaded. They believe Hristov has scored an own-goal and they are not going to let him off lightly. Melanic Dixon, 20, said the problem lay with him, not them, "I think it is a disgusting thing to say and he wants to get a life. I would tell him to get himself a life if I saw him. There must be something wrong with him if he is pulling people down."

Sarah Scholey, 17, said she would love to get her hands on Hristov. "It is not on. There are pretty women in Barnsley.

"He is sad, he wants to get a life. I would give him a good slap. There are some ugly women but it is not right to be saying it."

Mr Dennis insisted that Hristov has now settled into life in Barnsley. So, he's got a life. Now all he needs is a girlfriend.

— Clare Garner

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TV & Radio

PEOPLE



- reduced from £250,000 to £187,500 - at the store's sale yesterday Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Lady in the Lake man tells of charge ordeal

Gordon Park, the husband of the Lady in the Lake, spoke yesterday about the ordeal of heing charged with his wife's murder.

Mr Park, 53, was facing trial over the death of his wife, Carol, 21 years ago hut the charges have been dropped due to lack of evidence.

Speaking through his lawyer, the retired schoolteacher said he wanted to rehuild his life. "I would now like to try to put all this, including

the events of 21 years ago, hehind me and try to return to my everyday life," he said. "I was most relieved to hear that the Crown Prosecution Service had discontinued the charge against

me. The last four months since my arrest have been traumatic for myself and my family.

But Mrs Park's brother, Ivor Price, said the news had been devastating and the allegations of his sister's numerous extramarital affairs had left him stunned.

"I am disgusted at the way Carol has been portrayed," he said, "She's not someone who is cheap or had a string of lovers. She was a very intelligent and earing woman who picked her friends carefully." "She did tell me she was having an affair with a main from Middlesbrough hut she was seeking com-

fort with somebody else. "There were problems with the marriage and she told me how unhappy she was. But she was a decent and loving woman and she went back to be with her children. I want justice for Carol and the killer must

he found." Mrs Park disappeared from the family home in Leece, Barrow in 1977. Her body was found by divers in Coniston Water on 21 August last year. Detectives said the inquiry was still being pursued and made a fresh appeal for information to help track her killer. — Kate Watson-Smyth

Paul Gascoigne silent on divorce report

Paul Gascoigne refused to comment on reports of impending divorce from his wife, Sheryl, as he left Ibrox Stadium in Glusgow after a training session yesterday.

The England midfielder jumped into his car and sped out of the ground to avoid the press. The vehicle roared through traffie lights before disappearing down a side street to shake off photog-

It was thought Gascoigne may be returning to his chalet at the barchan. Renfrew.

had served divorce papers on him counselling for his temper.



Gascoigne: Quick temper

- 17 months after their wedding. old son, Regan, married in 1996 hut Cameron House Hotel, beside three months later Sheryl, 32, who English oak". He also plans to buy Loch Lomond, where he has been — has two other children from a pre- — a dog. "I m gonna huy an alsalian living since quitting his home in Kil-vious marriage, was photographed next week and call him Hendrix." after being beaten by Gascuigne. He was quoted in yesterday's 30, at Gleneagles Hotel. It is be-however, as Oasis embark to-Sun as saying his estranged wife lieved that he later underwent morrow on a 17-date tour of

Oasis man to settle down

Liam Gallagher, the Oasis singer. wants to settle down with wife Patsy and have children.

After four years of Oasis mayhem. Liam. 25, told GQ magazine that he has tired of the party lifestyle and prefers to stay in.

"Now I've got Pats. I am happiest with her. It makes me grow up," he tells the magazine. I could go out tomorrow, but it'd just be doing the same things - snorting lines in bogs. That's not for me.' Instead, he wanted to do up his

The couple, who have a year- new country house - "it's wicked, man, seven bedrooms, all old

Home life will have to wait,

UPDATE

CONSUMERISM

Youth in a pot remains an illusion

The promise of "youth in a pot" made by anti-ageing face creams is just that - a promise. They are no better than plain moisturisers which sell at a fraction of the cost, according to a Which? survey.

The most effective ingredient in 24 face creams, costing from £2 to £50 tested by the consumer magazine turned out to be the main one - water. Water plumps up the outer layer of skin, masking lines and wrinkles and

making the skin look smoother. Anti-ageing creams, costing up to 75 times as much as ordinary moisturisers, contain extra ingredients claimed to "target the needs of ageing and damaged skin" hut they left the women who tried them unimpressed and some complained of soreness and irritation. Which? selected 12 anti-ageing creams and 12 ordinary moisturisers and

tested each on four women volunteers aged from 40 to 55. Ten of the 48 women using the anti-ageing creams said it had improved the overall look of the their skin but 18 of the 48 testing the ordinary moisturisers said the same thing. Most women noticed no difference. The most expensive cream was Servital Active Tissue Defence by Syence, which costs £51 for 30 mls. The testers estimated it was worth around £5.

- Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor.

One in four GPs harassed at work

Almost a quarter of GPs have been sexually harassed by their patients, a survey has showed. One-fifth have felt sexually threatened by patients to the point of fearing for their safety and 7 per cent have been the victims of stalking.

Three of the 1,500 doctors surveyed by the journal Doctor said they were so distressed by the advances of sex pest patients that they had resigned. Two had left general practice altogether.

In 3 per cent of cases, it emerged that the harassment was by a colleague. The survey found the most common

forms of harassment were receiving unwelcome attention, explicit letters, in-

appropriate requests for examinations or visits and unwanted gifts. Both male and female GPs have been harassed in this way, although women were slightly more at risk, the survey found.

EDUCATION

Men lead women in exam stakes

Men are more likely than women to have been to university or college, according to a Government report. They are also more likely to have A-levels. There are, however, striking differences between different age groups. While women aged 40-59 are much more likely to have no qualifications compared to their male counterparts, men aged 16-24 are slightly more likely to have no qualifications compared to women the same age.

The Labour Market Trends survey published by the Government, shows that 21 per cent of men of working age have higher education qualificatimes compared with 19 per cent of women. Around 16 per cent of menand 21 per cent of women have no qualifications.

- Andrew Buncombe

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١	Belgium (francs)	59.07	Malca (lica)	0.63
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	Cyprus (pounds)	0.83	Norway (kroner)	11.74
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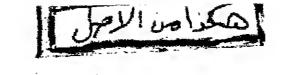
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3/NEWS

Human cloning pioneer dismisses ethical doubts

The US scientist who plans to set up the world's first Human Clone Clinic said yesterday he could see nothing wrong with producing endless identical human beings. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, asks if he is likely to succeed.

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選信 かつごう

THITTO IN

Land Landon (-

in exam stake

Richard Seed, the physicist who wants to offer infertile couples day programme. the chance to clone an identi-

yesterday he regretted not have from the woman's ovary, re- declined to name, but said the whether human cloning should fore she died last summer for the DNA and replacing it with a sample of her blood from the nucleus of an adult cell tak-

is little known in reproductive of its "parem", but 30 to 40 years circles but has done fertility re- younger. search in the past, claimed to ahead with the experiments. the egg and replace the cloned "Any new subject creates fear. It doesn't matter whether it's reproduction or automobiles." he said on BBC Radio 4's To-

The procedure would in-

which to produce a replica en from the man or the woman, productive Medicine. or a third party. The resulting The Chicago scientist, who child would be the identical twin

> Mr Seed will need the co-opembryo, and a clinic with the his ambition to set up a chain of 20 cloning clinics around the country.

> He claimed to be in negoti-

co-operate only with the consent purposes. of the American Society for Re-

Yesterday, a spokesman for the society said human cloning was unacceptable and it had called for a voluntary fiveyear moratorium while further have four couples willing to go eration of a doctor, to remove animal and DNA research was carried out. "We are not ready to do it in human beings right equipment to realise and it should not be pursued,"

However, in the UK, consultations led by the Human Genetics Advisory Commission cal twin of themselves, said volve taking an unfertilised egg ation with one clinic, which he are to begin this year into of human beings as "hanks" to donated egg stripped of its own

ing contacted Mother Teresa be-moving its nucleus containing doctor involved had agreed to he permitted for experimental

Although human cloning is effectively banned under the 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act, as it is in most European countries, Ruth Deech, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority argued in a hearing before the Commons Science and Technology Committee last year that possible benefits from realised if a total prohibition on

research were imposed. She ruled out the production

for transplant, or as "consolation" for bereaved parents who wished to reproduce a loved child. However, a possible application that might be acceptable was in the treatment of sufferers from a rare inherited

provide organs or bone marrow

disorder of the mitochondria the "power-plant" of the cell which surround the nuclei of cells and which can cause blindness and epilepsy.

netic offspring of its parents without the disorder. Other potential applications were likely to become evident over the next five years, she said. A spokesman for the authority said that, in contrast to research of this kind, Mr Seed's reference to Mother Teresa

By removing the nucleus human cloning would never be minus the defective mitochondria - from an embryo created by in-vitro fertilisation in the normal way and placing it in a

INDEPENDENT created that would be the ge-

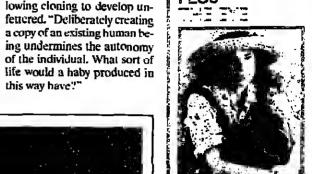
demonstrated the dangers of al-

ing undermines the autonomy

Better sex? It's all in the mind

IN TOMORROW'S

PLUS



Andie McDowell: Time to be taken seriously

Porn in the USA. Too much of a bad thing

Battleship Potemkin: Masterpiece or polemic?



Pop: What we really, really like

Moonstruck again after 25 years - but what's the thrill in a few drops of water?

After Apollo II, whatever happened to the Moonrush? Why don't we have a fulltime base on our satellite? And why could the Lunar Prospector spacecraft make a crucial difference? Charles Arthur, Science Editor. explains why space buffs are getting excited about the prospect of finding a bit of

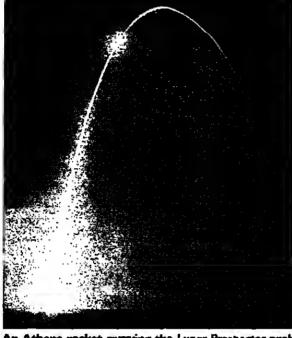
Lunar Prospector, which took off for the Moon early on Wednesday, may not be hig: it's only 1.2 metres (4 feet) long and weighs just 295 kilograms (650 pounds). But it could really have a large impact. It could make the Moon the best thing since the Klondike Gold Rush.

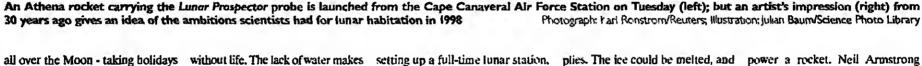
Watching the spacecraft take off. Joseph Boyce, a scientist who worked on Nasa's Apollo moon missions, including the last one, in December 1972, was ecstatic. "After 25 years of having not been to the Moon by Nasa, it certainly feels good to be going back," Mr Boyce said. "I couldn't be more excited, more happy, more pleased."

Prospector is due to arrive at the Moon on Sunday, after a trip cov- traterrestrial races. ering 240,000 miles (384,000 kilometres). Two days later, the probe ment and items left behind by the 12 metres) above the surface and begin its year-long search for evidence of frozen water, as well as minerals and

If you are over 35, then the ex-







for Mars or the stars, and digging it up (as in 2001: A Space Odyssey) to discover mysterious signs from ex-

will slip into orbit 60 miles (96 kilo- astronauts who walked on the Moon: landers, huggies, even golf balls. What happened to those dreams? Although everyone was thrilled by

the images of Neil Armstrong bouncing down the ladder from the Eagle citement generated by the Moon-lander, the news that the Apollo 11 shots 30 years ago meant you mission brought back in July 1969 expected that by now we would be was of a place without water and

there, using it as a waystation to head living on the Moon impracticable, beto take all their oxygen and liquid re- for the idea. quirements along in the launch ve-

> hugely expensive. A Moon hase would require about two metric tonnes of air and water per person per year.

Sending that to the Moon would cost roughly \$2,500 per kilogram, according to a 1994 study; keeping each person alive would cost roughly \$20 million per year. Though in 1989

But those equations all change if hicle. Water, in particular, is so there is water already on the Moon: base? Because it is a terrific spot for turning, "Somewhat like the Antarc-Instead, it's a junkyard for equipheavy that getting it out of orbit is the cost of setting up the station and launching missions to other planets. the stations. There's certainly the racen's shadowy poles hold as much as I hillion jons of water ice, a theory bolstered by the military's Clementine spacecraft, launched to

the Moon in 1994. With water, lunar settlers would be able to drink and breathe with-

without life. The lack of water makes setting up a full-time lunar station, plies. The ice could be melted, and power a rocket. Neil Armstrong the end of the Cold War three years oxygen could extracted from it, by reckons that a lunar base would have cause would-be settlers would have later killed off the finances required electrolysis, using electricity general to going for it. ated from solar panels.

Photograph: Farl Ronstrom/Reuters; Illustration: Julian Baum/Science Photo Library

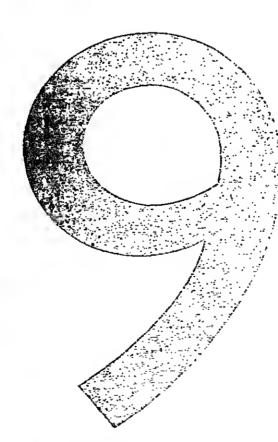
fold. And some scientists believe the thing from the Moon takes comparatively little energy, since its gravity is just one-sixth that of Earth.

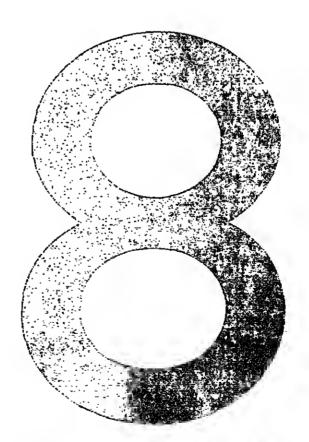
The raw materials could be found there - the rocks contain plentiful iron, magnesium and titanium, as well as uranjum, calcium and aluminium - and the water, electrolysed President George Bush suggested out having to bring their own sup- into hydrogen and owgen, could

"I'm certain that we'll have such But why should we want a Moon bases in our lifetimes," he said on reproblem of the environment and the vacuum, and the high temperature of day and night.

"Still, in some ways it's more hospitable than the Antarctic. There are no storms, no snow, no high winds. no unpredictable weather. As for the gravity - well, the Moon's a very pleasant kind of place to work in. Better than the Earth. I think."







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Evidence of Welsh vote count flaws

Conservatives demanded a recount of Welsh referendum votes and a full inquiry last night amid fresh evidence that the knife-edge count was mishandled. Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent, investigates a growing chorus of complaints.

Counting officers were told to ignore the votes of people who wrote "No" next to the box which said: "I agree that there should be a Welsh assembly," it emerged last night.

But a senior electoral officer said she was told to count the votes of people who put "Yes" next to a second box on the ballot paper which said: "I do not agree that there should be a Welsh assembly.

Alison Childs, the principal electoral officer for Rhondda Cynon Taff council, said she believed her counterparts around Wales had rung the office of Professor Eric Sunderland, the Chief Counting Officer. for clarification and had been given the same guidance.

Written rules sent out in advance gave different advice. They said if voters intentions were clear their papers should he counted.

Ms Childs said electoral officers had complained to the Welsh Office in advance of the vote that the two-question ballot paper would cause confusion. In the event there were 4.000 spoiled papers - more than half the narrow 6,700 majority in favour of an assembly.

"We said there was obviously a huge problem. We lold them that in advance because of the wording of the hallot paper. I ilar problem and every count may have done.

phoned them," she said. She also said hundles of votes had been counted behind a curtain in her area because of strong guidance that no-one should see how the voting was going locally until the national result was

Last night a Welsh Office spokesman said its officials did not recollect giving any verbal guidance. The "no" camp were not satisfied, though,

The Conservatives' constitutional spokesman, Nigel Evans, said there should be an inquiry, possibly by the Welsh Select Committee of the House of Commons.

"This is an amazing inconsistency," he said. "If there have been massive irregularities that is appalling and of course it doesn't bode well for democ-

Matthew Gunther-Bushell, strategist for the "Just say No" campaign in Wales, said there had been considerable confusion among both voters and electoral officers. "I was astonished at the

time, considering how slim the 'yes' majority was, that the Government refused a recount which is normal in Parliamentary elections. "It is too early to be talking

about vote-rigging but this new evidence about the counting guidelines, added to the widespread concern over counting irregularities, makes the case for a recount overwhelming," bc

Although people who wrote "yes" in the "no" box had their votes counted as "no," those who wrote "no" in the "yes" box had their papers spoiled. There is no clear evidence that this swayed the vote either way, believe every count had a sim- but some activists believe it



yesterday as part of a £75m sale. The 18th-century cistern was was owned by the Duke of Sussex Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Prescription cheats to be fined

Around 4,000 people a year could find themselves facing fixed penalty fines of £25 for non-payment of the £5.65 prescription charge under a crackdown announced by Alan Milburn, the health minister, on prescription fraud.

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Officials at the Department of Health said yesterday that most of the fraud which costs the NHS around £100m a year - was caused by people falsely claiming they qualified for free medicines because they were poor and receiving income support,

or other welfare benefits. Ministers found the system was "shot full of holes" and depended almost entirely on the honesty of patients, doctors and pharmacists. An efficiency scrutiny unit found blatant breaches, including one case of a man who ticked the box to obtain a free prescription on the ground that be was pregnant. In future, those claiming to be poor will have to show evidence such as a benefit certificate. If they still claim they are entitled to free prescriptions, but fail to provide evidence, they will still get their prescriptions free, but their forms will be marked for a possible ebeck-up later.

The Prescription Pricing Authority fraud investigation unit will cross-check the unsubstantiated claims with benefit payments on the social security computer files. Those found to he claiming fraudulently will receive a penalty payment demand. Persistent offenders could be taken to court. — Colin Brown

Chief Political Correspondent

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Courts to give media advice

Court officials are to be given a new role in briefing the media on how and why judges reached their decisions.

Although the Government dismisses suggestions that it is appointing outside "press officers", the move is designed counter the public perception of judges and magistrates being out of touch with society.

In six pilot schemes at crown courts, to be launched later this year, senior court officials, probably court managers, will be earmarked as main "points of contact" to help with media inquiries.

Their role will be to provide explanation on judges' decisions - for example seniencing on rape cases - which may cause controversy. If the idea is approved by the Judges Council it could be extended to crown courts around the country.

- Michoel Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Computer bug arrives early

The Miltennium computer bug arrived two years early in a furniture store - prompting calls for industry to learn from the incident and take the issue more seriously.

A customer at a branch of likea who tried to pay for goods using a credit card with a 00 expiry date found that the machine used to read the eard could not cope. NatWest, supplier of the machine, said the incident was not serious because it was one of fewer than 100 out of 170,000 terminals nationwide which would suffer the problem. Keving in the card data, rather than swiping it in, would get round the problem.

Don Cruickshank, of Action 2000, the Government-backed group set up to encourage businesses to tackle the problem. said: This is exactly why we are pressing everyone to get to grips ... as soon as possible ... Everything must be checked."

Kray loses cocaine appeal

Charlie Kray has lost the first round of his appeal against a conviction for masterminding a £39m cocaine deal.

The Court of Appeal rejected a written application from 71-year-old Kray's legal team for leave to appeal against the conviction. Kray's solicitor. Ralph Hacems, said: "We are disappointed we did not get leave to appeal, but will now prepare a legal submission to be heard hefore three judges."

Kray, the elder brother of gangster twins Ronnie and Reggie, was jailed for 12 years last June after being found guilty at Woolwich Crown Court of offering to supply undercover police officers with cocaine.

Four killed in M6 crashes

Four people died and six others were injured yesterday in two multiple pile-ups which brought chaos to husy stretches of the M6 motorway.

Three of the deaths came when three lorries and two cars were involved in a collision between junctions nine and 10 near Wednesbury, West Midlands, at about 6.15am. The fourth vicum died in a pile-up shortly afterwards near Garstang, Laneashire. The crushes caused tailbacks of up to 40 miles.

Radiohead snub Brit Awards

Radiohead have joined Oasis and Prodigy as top hands who will not perform at the Brit Awards, to be held next month.

The ceremony is the highlight of the British music industry year, but in an interview with Radio I's The Net last night, guitarist Ed O'Brien dismissed it a ploy to sustain record sales at a quiet time of year,

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Controversy as C4 provides platform for paedophiles

A controversial Channel 4 documentary to be screened tonight will interview named paedophiles about their desires and beliefs. Critics say it is giving a dangerous platform for child molesters to legitimise their values. Glenda Cnoper, Social dren. Affairs Correspondent, asks whether such a programme should be

"We have got to work towards a society which casts out discrimination, prejudice and higotry." This is Paul. He is talking about the need for society to stop discriminating against paedophiles. He also says he would love to come out and have an open relationship with a child where they did "the same things as heterosexuals do with each

interviewed for The Devil their views unchallenged. Views Amongst Us. There is also Gil, such as those of Colin who still 75, who has kept his pae- cannot see what all the fuss was ficer for the National Associa-

dophiliac tendencies secret about over his film which tion for the Care and Resende-Rob who communicates with other "boy lovers" via the Internet, Colin, convicted of possessing indecent material after filming young boys, and Peter Hamilton Harvey, who was convicted of indecent assault. All have one chilling thing in common: not one will admit any wrong in their desire for chil-

"I don't feel I ever have been a danger to children," says Gil, who claims never to have acted on his desires. "I have been tempted but the very idea of doing something that would traumatise a child physically or psychologically, that's complete anathema to me.

"I could never hurt a child in any way. I would like a loving relationship between myself relationship as reasonably

Those who work with sex offenders and their victims say that the documentary gives a "platform for criminals" who He is one of five paedophiles are allowed to put forward

from his wife and children, showed three 12-year-old hoys ment and Offenders, added urinating, defecating and simulating masturbation. "My role as an adult was to supervise and protect them from paedophiles."

> chilling account of how men who have no moral scruples and who do not share the values of our society operate in sexually abusing children."

But Dea Birkett, the writer and journalist who presents the film says she made it because she feels that we need to know more about such people in order to deal with them. "I felt we actually needed to confront them, to look at them - what they think, what they do - basically to unbood them. There have always been victims but we and a child as near to adult need to know more about them so there are no more victims.

But Mr Taylor responded: "Who is speaking out for the children in all this? It is very unfortunate that the film does not take the child's perspective into account as well as that of the perpetrator of the abuse.

Paul Cavadino, principal of-

that the programme was "giving a platform to criminals to justify their activities that cause life-long damage to children". And he went on: "It's an un-Mike Taylor, of the NSPCC, balanced programme - there is said of the programme: "It is a no reference to the victims or survivors of paedophiles.

> "And from the standpoint of those working with offenders there were only unrepentant paedophiles.'

The programme makers argue that they show equally strongly people who have taken action against paedophiles such as Tony Shepherd, who tells of his attempts to get Mr Hamilton Harvey to leave the neighbourhood, including throwing a brick into the car of his 71-year-old father and setting fire to a car that belonged a friend of the family,

Those actions got him put on probation otherwise Mr Shepherd says, he planned to "to take Hamilton Harvey] away to the area of Wareham forest ... He was going to be taught a lesson. going to be given a very serious warning he was not wanted any more and that it was in his best interests to move [We were going to] nail him to a

"We must meet and confront pacdophiles," says Ms Birkett who describes making the documentary as confronting her own worst fears. "We must learn how to deal with them without resorting to the bricks and the petrol bombs so we can protect children without viocnce or tear."

Ray Wyre, a therapist who has worked for many years with sex offenders, said: "There is a responsibility on us. This programme may reinforce their beliefs. These people believe what they do is not wrong, they believe society is wrong. Other people watching could have their belief system reinforced."

Asked last night to comment, Peter Grimsdale, commissioning editor for religion at Channel 4 said: "At the very least the programme informs the debate by acknowledging, unpalarable as the truth might be, that paeamongst us."



Dea Birkett: 'I felt we actually needed to confront them ... basically to unhood them'

Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Council condemned in child abuse inquiry

Incompetence not corruption allowed a social worker to put children at risk of abuse for more than a decade. An independent inquiry said a 'climate of fear' allowed Mark Trotter, who died of an Aldsrelated illness, to carry on working with children in care. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs

Hackney Council knew of four complaints of sexual abuse against Mark Trotter by the late. Eighties but failed to suspend him because of his powerful position as a trade unionist.

Correspondent reports.

But John Barratt, who carried out the independent inquiry into the Mark Trotter affair, said that the way the lat- the scandal brought the au-

ter was dealt with amounted to "impropriety" rather than corruption, "I criticised the failure to suspend [Trotter], not because of ... influence by councillors hut by the fact that he had quite an influential position in the trade union in a conneil where trade unions. have a lot of power," Mr Bar-

frotter, who had worked for Hackney Council since 1981, was about to be arrested over allegations of sexual abuse when he died of an Aids-related illness in 1995. Four complaints of sexual abuse of children in Hackney and Liverpool had been made against him over the years.

The independent inquiry was set up by the conneil in 1996 after serious concerns about the activities and management of Trotter, who worked for the authority from 1981 to 1993. Newspaper revelations about

thorny under attack for its ed its internal inquiry and said at the results of a number of inhandling of the affair and allecations of a cover up.

It was claimed that Trotter, who was openly gay, had strong links with the thenruling Lahour group and stayed in his jub despite being suspected of child abuse. A separate investigation by

the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, also commissioned by Hackney Council, concluded last year that Trotter had abused at least six children and teenagers in his care.

Mr Barratt, a former director of Cambridgeshire social services, said that there was no evidence of a cover-up: "My conclusion is that inadequacies in dealing with the Trotter affair are best explained by refcrence to overall organisational incompetence rather than to corrupt political conspiracies." But he was "highly critical"

that there was a "poor quality" workforce, "mismanagement" and "uncontrolled power exercised ... in the managerial chaos of the 1980s".

The atmosphere at Hackney, where defamatory rumour was used as a "standard political weapon" and was combined with organisational incompetence meant that it was not difficult for people to services." believe in favouritism and undue influence.

The report calls on the council to review its childcare record-keeping for children, which it describes as appalling. It also recommends a multiagency approach to looking after those in care.

Mr Barratt called for national guidelines to help prevent child ahuse rather than leaving it to individual police forces and social services. "The of the way Hackney conduct- Government should be looking

quiries. Is it right to be leaving it to some ad hoc inquiries? ... There is a possibility, almost more a probability, that widespread abuse did occur in residential care in the 1980s which may need looking at more thoroughly with common standards of co-operation rather than leaving it to individual police forces and individual social

John McCafferty, Labour group leader on Hackney Council, where no party has overall control, said: "I am policy, including improving pleased the independent report has concluded there was no cover up. Hackney Labour was wrongly accused. This accusation has been completely rehutted by this independent inquiry." But the Liberal Democrats said that while the report was good in places questions must be answered by the Labour Party about its

'Pleasant young man' who preyed on young

When Mark Trotter was first - had worked previously - were - port - a mere seven pages - was interviewed in September 1981. as a houseparent, for a children's home in Hackney the panel which appointed him who appeared quietly deter-

But only three months later a young man in Troubridge House alleged Trotter had "interfered" with him. A month later there was an allegation of indecent assault made by another boy. Trotter was suspended but after a full duty at Trowbridge House.

cial Services - where Trotter outdwas also missed and the re-

investigating another incident. not received until the follow-In 1987 there was yet another allegation from a young council were first alerted, only woman in Hackney. The police - a fraction of the children had were impressed and described - were informed and investigathim as a "pleasant young man" ed. The allegation could not be substantiated.

Little happened then until 1993 when Trotter retired on health grounds, dying in July 1995 aged 34 of an Aids-related illness. Merseyside police had been just about to question him. about sexual abuse of five groung men in Liverpool.

When Hackney social serdisciplinary hearing in June vices were told of this they pi82 when the case was "not commissioned a social worker." proven" he was returned to 10 trace as many young people. as possible with whom Trotter Two years later in 1984 had worked. He was meant to Hackney heard that Merset- (eport by December, That side Police and Liverpool So- deadline was missed. The sec-

ing July. A year since the been traced, four of whom had died, one from an Aids-related illness.

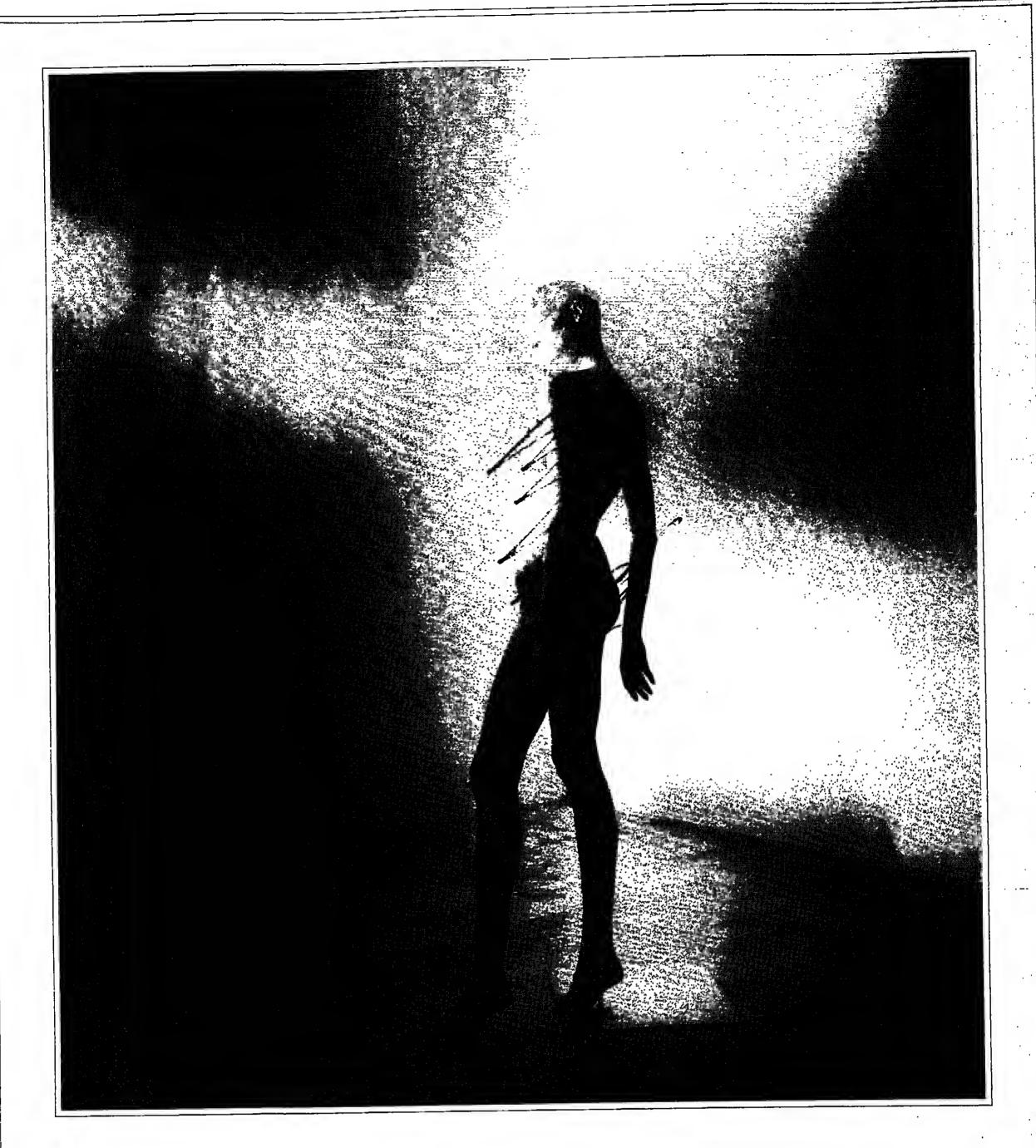
The story finally bit the media. The warfare within the Labour group at-Hackney meant that it was perceived as a cover-up because Trotter had been a Labour party activist. And a delay in setting up an investigation split Hackney's ruling Labour group with 17 members walking out amid claims of the cover-up, The Liberal Democrats requisitioned a special council meeting which finally voted at lam to set up an independent



- Glenda Cooper Mark Trotter: Dled in 1995 from Aids-related illness



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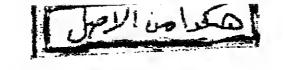
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Car dealers exposed in price-fixing investigation

Ever had a problem getting a car dealer to drop the price of new cars? The Consumers' Association has and it claims that some ruthless carmakers keep prices high. Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent, examines the allegations.

Volvo, the Scandioavian motor manufacturer, was accused yesterday of "price-fixing" under European law by discouraging dealers from offering customers

An undercover researcher from Which? magazine posed as an interested buyer at 12 Volvo dealerships but could only get a "very small" discount on a car worth £16,675.

In fact some dealers allegedly went further telling the researcher that Volvo told them not to offer discounts. According to this month's Which? report, one Volvo dealer in Farnham allegedly told the researcher that the car maker would "rap the knuckles" of dealers caught discounting and another in Croydon said it would lose its franchise.

Any attempt to fix prices would breach European competition law. The Consumers' Association say it will present the evidence to the European Commission. Volvo deny the to suggest that we have the abil- which, according to the Con-



claims. A spokeswoman for ity to either terminate a dealmargin of 7 per cent to "play

In a statement, the company said it "does not restrict in any way the price at which dealers

Volvo said that dealers have a er's agreement or penalise them in any way for discounting".

The report also highlights that all 12 Fiat dealers inside the M25 are owned by the same company and offer the same may sell cars ... it is incorrect models at the same prices -

sumers' Association, would "discourage competition". Not all the companies con-

tacted refused to give discounts. All four Ford dealers Which? visited offered "substantial discounts of up to £1,000". However, the industry said

motor manufacturers did not

of cars, "There are guideline Macgowan, chief executive of or even paying a premium. eration, the body which repre-

have the power to fix the price franchised dealerships. Mr Macgowan added that

prices but there are other when cars were in short supply considerations which dictate a very often customers would retail price," said Christopher find themselves with no discount the Retail Motor Industry Fed- For example there are some shortages of popular Audi and sents the country's 4.800 VW cars and people cannot ex-

pect to haggle and get savings." Which? also questioned whether it was possible to import a car into Britain and claimed manufacturers were deliberately putting obstacles in the way of customers prepared to go abroad for a bargain.

When the researcher asked

Cutting up rough: An undercover researcher was told that Volvo instructed dealerships not to offer discounts in a move which flouts EU competition law

an Opel (Vauxhall) dealership in Holland for a right-hand drive Corsa, two salesman said Opel "would not allow them to sell cars to foreigners".

The report claims that when the researcher tried to order an import versioo of a Nissan Almera from the Continent saving £4,000 on a car worth £11,000 - the investigator was told it was impossible to order.

According to the Commission last year, Britain joined the ranks of the most expensive places in which to buy a car. The Commission says this is due to price hikes by maoufacturers and the rise in sterling's value.

Fifteen of the 75 models considered were most expensive in the UK including the Opel Corsa and Astra, and the Peugeot 106 and 306. Britain was cheapest for only three models: the BMW 730i and Volvo's 850 and 960.

Buyers will find no hargains in Germany or France which had the highest prices in the EU. Both had 30 of the dearest models. By cootrast, the Netherlands and Portugal are the cheapest countries for cars.

More drivers ignoring drink limit

Nearly 10 per cent of motorists involved in an accident during previous drink-drive figures Christmas were over the drinkdrive limit, it was revealed yes-

Overall, police in England and Wales gave 15,455 tests afpositive. Nearly 7,000 people stopped were involved in acciwere injured in car crashes dents. from 18 December to 2 Januone out of five drivers breath- hreath-test failure rate of 9 per found to have drunk too much, er than the 5 per cent rate in in-

were impossible because a new system of counting has been introduced this year. Previously details of all breath-tests during

Despite the police's attempts ary. In two police force areas, to restrict information, the tested after car crashes was cent over Christmas is far high-

Police said comparisons with jury collisions reported by the Accidents said the failure rate Government for the year of

Avon and Somerset police found that 30 (21 per cent) of the 145 motorists tested had drunk too much. In Wiltshire. ter collisions and 1,430 were whether or not the drivers 27 out of 138 breath tests (20 per cent) were positive.

North Wales had the third highest rate at 17 per cent and Lancashire was fourth with 16 per cent.

Dave Rogers, of the Royal Society for the Prevention of

was appalling. Far too many people are still drinking and driving without any thought for the devastation they can cause.

We fear that drink-driving is slowly on the increase again. We would like to see police and the courts getting tough with drink drivers so that these totally irresponsible motorists realise that the risk is just not

The COPERATIVE BANK

Crime Correspondent

Prescott pledges action on cleaner air

Air pollution will be the Government's main target in its hid to clean up the environment during the UK's presidency of the European Union.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, pledged to help make Europe "greener" with action on climate change, reductions in acid rain, new policies to reduce filthy exhaust fumes from vans and heavy lorries, and more protection for threatened - Joson Bennetto animals, birds and plant life. Mr Prescott said traffic pol-

lution must be curbed in order come under pressure from reg- able public concern" in Britain to meet the ambitious carbon dioxide reduction levels the Government has set itself, However, he dismissed reports that this would add another £300 to the cost of a car.

Gavin Strang, the minister responsible for transport, said there was no question that the Government wanted better technology and for consumers to be more conscious of green issues when they bought cars.

The airline industry will also

ulators who are concerned with the health of people living near airports caused by harmful NOx gases spewed from aircraft en-

Mr Prescott told reporters at a London news conference: "The presidency is not something remote, happening in Europe. It's about the lives we lead, our jobs, tackling crime and improving the environment."

Prescott, about the "consider- programme."

and across Europe about poor air quality - but, he added, only Europe-wide measures could make any difference to improving the air we all breathe.

Although the proposals were generally welcomed, some campaigners said more could be done. Lynn Sloman, Assistant Director of Transport 2000. said: "They have said nothing about cutting the mammoth There was no secret, said Mr EU funded road-building

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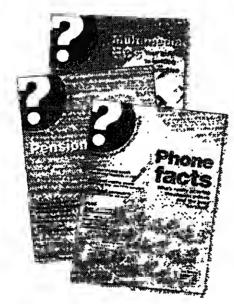
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Psychopathic drifter convicted of nightmare attack

A homeless teenager who plunged a knife into the head of a woman travelling alone on a train was convicted yesterday of attempted

Joson Bennetto, Crime Correspondent reports on a shocking case of random violence.

Robert Buckland, 18, was remanded for psychiatric reports until next month, when he will be sentenced. His victim, Alison Kennedy, 28, miraculously survived the attack in which the five-inch-bladed Bowiestyle hunting knife had to be removed from her head.

Buckland said he had wanted to snatch Miss Kennedy's handbag but had thrust the knife into her skull in a rush of anger, intending to kill her. When she turned and rose from her seat, holding the knife in her head. Buckland ran away scared and tried to jump

The Old Bailey was told he suffered from a severe psychopathic disorder from early childhood which exploded into



deoied attempted murder.

viotence oo occasions. At He had teft home at 16 afschool, he had fantasised about ter trouble with his stepmother but by March last year he was stabbing a woman in the head.

fed up sleeping rough and beg-Buckland had admitted wounding Miss Kennedy, who ging. He was on his way to Guildford to find a bed for the was travelling to visit her sister on the Waterloo to Guildford night. Miss Kennedy was on the same train visiting her sister. train in March last year. But he

Among the few possessions

Robert Buckland (left) told the court he had carried out the attack in a

moment of anger. Doctors said Alison Kennedy (right) was tucky to be alive after the knife was plunged into her skuli, seen in an X-ray (centre)

> Buckland had was the knife and hand on the grip exactly like leased in that blow, t had not of her. I ran through the cara hammer he said his father had you see in a horror movie. I given him. He said he had them took the knife out of my pockso he could break into premiser and raised my arm up in the es to steal and feed himself,

behind Miss Kennedy.

"Then a hig rush of anger. He took out the hunting knife when he was three feet As I pulled my arm down, it all came out. I think all the stress and frustration had all been re- be quite honest, t was scared He told the court: "I put my

planned to dispose of it in that way - that was just the way I was feeling," he said.

shocked by what he had done. "She stood up. I did not know what she was going to do. To

riage. I saw her stand, one hand on her head, staggering down." Miss Kenoedy, a charity

worker from Northern Ire-Afterwards he said he was land, said she thought she was going to dic. She will never ful-

Speaking outside the court after the verdict, she said: "I feel a great sense of relief at the result and a great sense of satisfaction to be here to see it for

"I would like to say thanks to everyone who helped me and I am looking forward to getting on with my life."

Surgeons originally thought Miss Kennedy would die from the massive knife wound. She still needs an operation to repair bone deficiency and has suffered extensively from deep psychological trauma.

Dr Adrian Casey, the surgeon responsible for removing the knife from Miss Kennedy's head, said: "To survive relatively intact from an injury of this kind is nothing short of a miracle."

"When she came to across to us she was lying on a trolley with a knife coming out of her head. The amazing thing was she was awake and alert despite this horrific injury.

We put her to sleep under general anaesthetic and theo in theatre we opened up the wound where the knife had shattered the skull and we drilled with a high-speed drill around the knife so we had full ly recover from the assault access to the brain and then I cautiously removed the knife."





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— Paul McCam

Pressure on schools to reach new literacy levels

90 per cent.

ceptable targets.

Ministers will put pressure on local education authorities to adopt traditional teaching methods if they fail to meet literacy targets. Judith Judd, Education Editor, describes government plans to achieve dramatic improvements in literacy by 2002.

Local authorities who could do better, eveo though they are getting above average test results will be exposed. Stephen Byers, school standards minister, said yesterday.

At the North of England education conference he published a list of literacy targets for 132 authorities. Some will be expected almost to double the proportion of 11-year-olds reaching the expected standard over the next five years.

Ministers want 80 per cent of pupils to reach the required standard in national English tests. The present figure is 57 per cent. The lowest target for eas would need more help from an authority is 70 per cent and the highest 90 per cent. In 1996, only 36 per cent of pupils reached the standard in Tower Hamlets, the worst performing authority. Its target is 70 per education action zones but cent. The new authority of Nottingham City which comes into existence in April will have to inprove from 36 to 72 per cent.

At the other extreme, Wokingham in Berkshire is expected to go up from 74 to 90 per cent and Bury in Lancashire from 66 per cent to 90 per cent.

will be no hiding place for under performance - every pareot will know these figures and will judge local education authori-

ties on how they meet them." Ministers would be mooitoring authorities' progress and would take action if any were falling behind.

Authorities were asked to

chose targets from a 5 per ecot

range. Mr Byers said that some

had been cajoled into setting

targets acceptable to the Gov-

ernmeot. Others had opted to aim for even higher goals.

All have now agreed ac-

Mr Byers accepted that

progress would be less rapid in

areas which are already per-

furming well. He said: "There

Most people oow accepted, be said, that teaching methods used in the national literacy project, which include phonics and whole-class teaching worked. "If an authority is falling behind ... we will put pressure on them to adopt different methods

which will raise literacy levels." Mr Byers accepted that those authorities in deprived arthe Government but said that poverty was no excuse for underachievement. He reassured conference delegates that they had a vital role to play in oew warned them that they had no God-given right to run schools.

Mr Byers also announced that the Government is to introduce a new kite-marking system for independent schools. The rethink has been prompted by the Utting report on child protection. Talks are tak-Rutland, Surrey, Bromley ing place between ministers and Solihull also have targets of and independent school leaders.

Video link in violent chain

lence that makes them enjoy watching violent videus, a Home Office Study has rerealed.

As reported to The Independent last week, a study by Birmingham University commissioned in the aftermath of the Jamic Bulger case has found no simplistic pattern of behaviour where young men watch violent videos and theo carry out

aggressive or violent acts, Instead the study suggests cial background and delinquent behaviour extends to a taste for violent films. The report concluded: "The research points to a pathway from having a violent home background, to being an uffender, to being more likely Aspokeswoman for the airline to prefer violent films and vio- said last night they had not been lent actors."

Airline in £1.2m suit over delay

Violent videos do not make Caledonian Airways faces a young people violent, it is vio- £1.2m legal action after a flight to Britain was delayed for 37 hours. Two solicitors who were on flight CKT977 from Tel Aviv are threatening a multi-party action on behalf of around 300

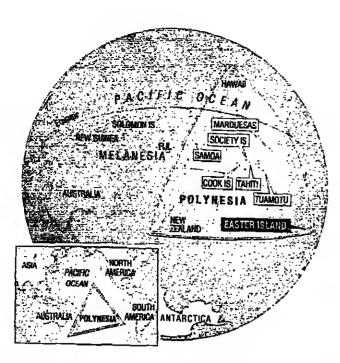
of the 377 passengers. The aircraft had been scheduled to arrive at 5am on Mooday, but did not arrive until 6pm oo Tuesday, following technical problems. The Tristar jet was first delayed more than 17 hours in Israel while engineers fixed a faulty instrument gauge, that the link hetween poor so- and was then forced to make an emergency landing in Greece two hours into the flight because

of engine problems. Caledonian Airways was named by Which? as the worst airline for delays last summer. ootified of any legal action.

- Michael Streeter

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Heyerc Anyears ago. Thor Heyer de Kon-Tik: expedition gared to prove that and wars could have salled w In South American to Co Pacific islands. But DN mience now shows that his TOT WAS WITTED. Commercy & Years Editor, on the male E tave upset a great Dinosaurs pt feather stay war

9/SCIENCE



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DNA shows how Thor Heyerdahl got it wrong



Historical focus: Three girls of the Rapa clan wait on Easter Island for a boat to Huga Roa

Fifty years ago, Thor Heyerdahl and the Kon-Tiki expedition appeared to prove that ancient humans could have sailed west from South American to colonise the Pacific islands. But DNA evidence now shows that his theory was wrong. Charles Arthur, Science Editor, on the molecules that have upset a great adventure.

Dinosaurs

got feathers

to stay warm

In The Lovage of the Kon-Tiki, the Norwegian archaeologist Thor Heyerdahl famously proved that early humans could have used the trade winds to sail from Peru to Easter Island - and thus be its first settlers. But although the tale of his replica raft and the voyage westward across the Pacific in August 1947 makes a stirring tale, his idea has now been proved to be wrong, Sorry, Thor. DNA analysis of the remains of the original settlers of islands all around the Pacific, including Easter Island, demonstrates that they actually came from South-East Asia.

Dr Erika Hagetberg, of the department of genetics at Cambridge University, has

In the world of dinosaurs, one argument

is increasingly occupying scientists: did birds

evolve from lizard-like dinosaurs, or from

Now, two newly discovered specimens

from China seem to show dinosaurs which

developed primitive feathers for warmth

rather than flight, and could be early an-

spent the past eight years studying the mi-colonised New Zealand, Hawaii and Easttochondrial DNA - passed down through the maternal line - of Polynesians, who moved into the western Pacific about 1.500 years ago, and the Melanesians, who were the first to migrate there during the Pleistocene era about 60.000 years ago.

There are two groups of populations which moved into the area, but both ultimately came from Asia." Dr Hagelberg said vesterday, "The Melanesians could have been one of the first migrations of modern humans out of Africa." They appear to have reached New Guinea, where they settled. The Polynesians then followed, and

pteryx, which lived about 140 million years

ago, were recently found in Liaoning in

north-eastern China. The most interesting

discovery was the quill-like "integuntentary

structures" covering both specimens, the sci-

ence journal Nature reports today. Running

from the base of the head along the back

er Island itself.

Determining the origins of populations by analysing mitochondrial DNA is done by first assuming that mutations in the sequence of the DNA arise at a specific rate but differently for different people. So two populations which evolve apart will have dissimilar sequences of mitochondrial DNA. That means you can distinguish where the DNA found in skeletons originated from, by comparing it with that from modern-day populations and also ancient DNA of known origins. And in the case of Easter Island's original settlers, it turns out

is possible they were used to stop the di-

gest they were warm-blooded, unlike lizards

veloped from dinosium has intensified in

the past few years. The generally held view

The argument over whether birds de-

which are cold-blooded.

and tail, they are thought to be the remains is that Archaeopteryx, a dinosaur with wing-

that their common ancestor comes from South-East Asia - not South America.

Photograph: Bob Sacha/Colorific

Professor Heyerdabl has counter-daimed that the real first settlers cremated their dead, which would destroy any potential evidence. But Dr Hagelberg disputes this. "I can look at the DNA in the bones. I've examined a couple of hundred skeletons. It just takes patience and attention to detail."

Her work was done in collaboration with teams in Oxford, Holland and Australia and presented yesterday at a seminar at the Natural History Museum, organised by the Natural Environment Research Council, looking at "ancient biomolecules".

chicken-sized biped dinosaure Sinosaure but were clearly not designed for flight, It ago, was the precursor of modern birds. But that view has been challenged by a group nosaur losing body heat, which would sug- of scientists who think they evolved in parallel from a common ancestor with dinosaurs. The evidence from Sinosauroptervx indicates that feathers evolved from simpler, branched structures that appeared in non-flying dinosaurs, possibly as a means

- Charles Arthur

Asteroids' tidal wave threat

The impact of a wayward asteroid on one of the earth's oceans would spell disaster for coastal cities, a US scientist says. Such an impact would trigger massive tidal waves, or "tsunamis" capable of travelling thousands of kilometres and devastating entire coastlines - though Britain, it seems, would be spared the worst effects.

Jack Hills, an astrophysicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, used a computer program to make the first detailed simulations of cosmic impacts on our planet's oceans. He presented the results yesterday at the winter meeting of the American Astronomical Society.

Even a comparatively small asteroid, with a diameter of 200m, would "cause a large-scale tsunami on all of the coastal areas on the particular ocean that it hits", Mr Hills said. Such an impact is expected every few thousand years. The resulting ocean waves would be some 30m in height, and would grow even larger as they approached the shore. They would also be unstoppable.

The worst-case scenario Mr Hills investigated was the impact of an object five kilometres across - an event expected once in about 10 million years. The simulation looked at a strike in the north of the Atlantic Ocean. The model predicted waves powerful enough to swamp the eastern seaboard of the United States right up to the Appalachian Mountains.

Though parts of Europe would also be devastated by such a mighty splash, a quirk of geography acts in Britain's favour; the ocean floor off south-west England has a very gradual stope. This shallow incline, Mr Hills explains, would reflect some of the tsunami's energy back into the ocean. "The damage in England is much smaller than one would think," he said.

Ireland would fare slightly worse, while France and Portugal would take the brunt of devastation on the eastern side of the Atlantic.

Mr Hills said the first step in dealing with the threat of cosmic collisions is a programme to identify the thousands of objects that could potentially hit our planet, along with better evacuation planning for coastal areas. — Dan Falk, Washington

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10/POLITICS

Tories plan **American** style primary for London mayor







In the running: From left, MP and diarist Alan Clark, former transport minister Steven Norris, best-selling author Jeffrey Archer, and the last governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten

The official Tory candidate to become Mayor of London is to be selected by a one member one vote ballot of the Tory Party in the South East. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says Lord Archer is miles ahead in the popularity stakes.

Best selling author Jeffrey Archer's chances of becoming the Tory candidate for the mayor of London were enhanced last night by

leaders that a ballot of the party will be held before the names go into the hat.

Lord Archer, who claimed an athlet-ics "blue" at university, has been out of the blocks in front of the rest of the field for months. He has even visited New York in reservations about a Tory beauty parade of the role of the first US-style Mayor of Lon-

But in spite of his enthusiasm for the "primaries" in London could include Chris cause of his high profile and occasionally

the confirmation by Conservative Party Patten, the last Governor of Hong Kong, Steven Norris, the colourful former transport minister for the capital, and Alan too soon." Clark, Chelsea M. diarist, wit, and rank out-

The Tory leadership may have their his efforts to prepare himself for assuming such high-profile candidates - they are rafters after his bullish speeches to party scarcely shrinking violets, and may relish an unseemly scrap.

There had been clear signals that the joh, Lord Archer is not being given a clear Tory hierarchy was reluctant to see Lord field. Other runners limhering up for the Archer become the official candidate be-

said some weeks ago: "Jeffrey has peaked

But the one-member, one-vote contest means grassroots activists can determine the outcome - and they are same activists who so often applied Lord Archer to the conference, and buy his books.

Conservative Central Office and the leadership will stand aside, not even insisting upon nominations before would-be mayors throw their hats in the ring.

Anyone who wishes to stand need only

forward. The hallot is likely to be restrict- depedendent has damaged his long-term ed to members in the London area, where Lord Archer has a flat overlooking the Houses of Parliament.

In addition to having his own fortune to back his campaign, Lord Archer has been starring in an advertisement on television for BT, which has led to some grumhles about unfair competition.

Mr Patten was seen as the preferred Hong Kong. It is not thought his decision on May 7.

mayerick attitudes. One senior Tory source be a party member to put his or her name to sign the pro-European letter to The Inchances, following the signal yesterday by William Hague that he still wants him in his team and will tell him so next time they meet in a couple of weeks.

Mr Patten, who has recently bought a house in West London, is telling friends that he is interested in the vacancy, if it is a "real

The London referendum, to see candidate for the Tory leadership, having whether people want an elected mayor and gravitus and celebrity quality after leaving a separate London authority, takes place



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Redwood bound for Zog, says Labour

John Redwood lambasted Tony Blair for leaving Britain for Tokyo today after launching Britain's European presidency in London. Colin Brown says Labour accused Mr Redwood of 'heading for Planet Zog'.

Arch Euro-sceptie John Redwood was attacked by Labour last night of "spinning out of control" after accusing Tony Blair of turning his back on Britain's role in Europe for planning to fly to Japan for a summit today after launching Britain's presidency of the union. "John Redwood is so out of touch, he is now spinning out of control on his return to Planet Zog." said a senior Labour party source.

Mr Blair will today be boarding an aircraft for Japan after launching Britain's presidency Chris Patten could still return of the European Union in Lon- to Mr Hague's team, in spite of don with Jacques Santer, the signing the letter to The Indeing a leading role in an EU-Japan summit in Tokyo with Mr Santer, but his decision to fly out of Britain so soon after his new year break in the Seychelles was attacked by arch

Euro-sceptic John Redwood. "When the Prime Minister

turns to Britain briefly before going off to Japan, he is sending a message to our European partners he wishes to turn his back on them," Mr Redwood said.

Mr Redwood said that Mr Blair and the Cahinet had failed to prepare for the six-month presidency. He said they should have spent more time preparing Britain's agenda to keep EU taxes low, markets flexible and protect small firms from red

Denying that he was being Irivial, Mr Redwood said he wanted Britain to use its presidency to police the legality of countries planning to go ahead with a single currency in 1999 without meeting the requirements in the Maastricht treaty.

He also gave his strong backing to the stand by the Conservative leader. William Hague. against a single currency. Meanwhile, senior Tory sources said President. He will be tak- nendent challenging his leadership on the single currency.

"Chris knows that in politics nothing matters. People have short memories," said a former minister. Mr Hague yesterday made it clear he would be seeing Mr Patten in the next few weeks to invite him back, prodecides to launch his presiden- viding he toes the Shadow Cabcy from the Seychelles and re- inet line ruling out a single



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Feast from the dark side of Pink Floyd

Vintage sessions by bands including Pink Floyd and the Who are being unearthed by the **BBC** following the interest in the Rolling Stones tapes. David Lister, Arts News Editor, visits the archives and listens to the music.

For any rock music fan the basements containing the BBC radio archives are a treasury. Shelf upon shelf of tapes contain vintage performances from the last 30 years.

Not before time, the BBC are drawing up plans to release some of these sessions, both concert and studio performances, by the world's most famous groups.

This follows the success of which made the corporation £2m. The Led Zeppelin BBC Sessions which has sold I million copies and aroused huge intercompiling of Sixties sessions by the Rolling Stones, exclusively reviewed yesterday in The Independent.

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s on PC CD-Rer

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be released this year. But with the BBC realising that the archive recordings, all of studio quality, can attract massive sales, the Stones are almost certain to be followed by other hig

John Willan, head of music at BBC Worldwide, who is offer endearing moments of overseeing the project, said: "Gradually the record companies and artists are discovering that there is a certain cachet about BBC sessions."

I visited the basement conweek and saw shelf upon shelf Dave Clark Five thumping out

of tapes containing sessions their song "Bits And Pieces". from names such as Pink Floyd, the Who, Jimi Hendrix, Queen, Elton John, Genesis, Cream, and - presumably spelled by a BBC employee who was not a ment in from the relevant band music fan - a group called the and its record company. Some

merising versions of their clastheir 1970 alhum Atom Heart or more Mother.

A compilation of Pink Floyd BBC sessions possibly holds the most exciting potential. The band was at its peak, just before the release of Dark Side Of the Moon, its higgest selling alhum, and used the sessions for a feast of improvisation.

These alternate takes and the chance to own hitherto un-The Beatles: Live at the BBC, released tracks are factors that will encourage fans to huy BBC sessions by groups such as Pink Floyd. Another factor is the different perspective youthful perest in the United States, and the formances offer on well established international acts.

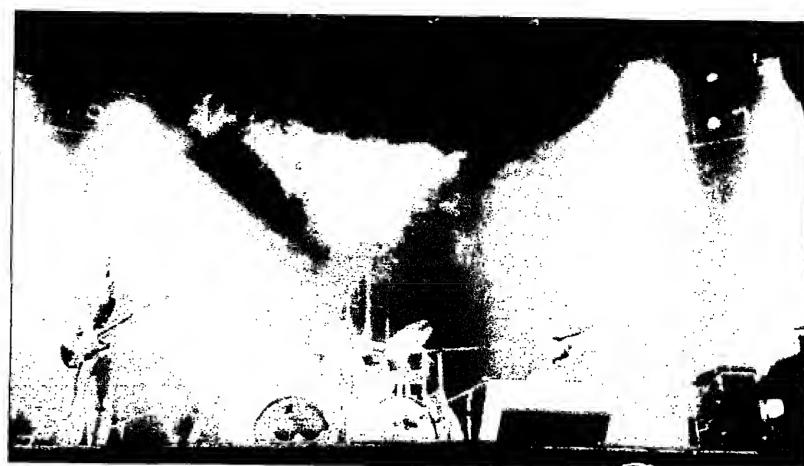
For example, I shall not easily forget hearing a 1964 session by the Rolling Stones this week, Those sessions are likely to a soulful rendering of their still underrated tune "You'd Better Move On" with Keith Richards in the background crooning doo-wah-doo-wah into the microphone, surely the only time in his career he has so nearly risked losing all his street cred. Occasionally, the BBC tapes

the primitive in performance techniques. Bernie Andrews, the producer on Saturday Club, had to huy a huilder's hoard so that he and the programme's host Brian Matthew could taining the BBC archives this stamp on it as backing for the

All that is stopping BBC Worldwide from reaping the rewards of the corporation's archives is the need to get agree-

groups, such as Pink Floyd, are I listened to Pink Floyd still active and may have plans recordings from 1971 that sent to release new work. But it is una shiver down the spine: three likely that any potential objeccompletely different and mes- tions would survive the hands listening again to the sic track "Echoes", and an quality of the work that they will alternative and richer version of not have heard for two decades

> Leslie Golding, husiness development manager at BBC Worldwide Music, has been scouring the archives for both rock and classical sessions, as classical sessions are also being released. He describes some of the rock sessions as "astonishing" and almost all of recording studio quality.



Vintage sessions by Pink Floyd (above) and the Who have been unearthed in the BBC Archives

Photograph: London Features International



terrible is great." He was talking about Comedy Nation, a weird programme shot on hand-held videos that is a cross between BBC 2's public access

series has admitted that the

slot Video Nation and a traterrible it will be fortunate because it is likely to be the cheapest comedy show ever hroadcast by the BBC. Comedy Nation will air at

midnight on Friday for half an hour for 13 weeks. It cost just £29,000 per episode to produce, compared with more than £200,000 per writing talent in Britain to see episode for shows like The Fast Show.

"In exchange for having no money the executives have said we can have carte blanche," says co-producer Phil Clarke. "We don't have to go upstairs and ask permission for anything. At that time of night we can be rude

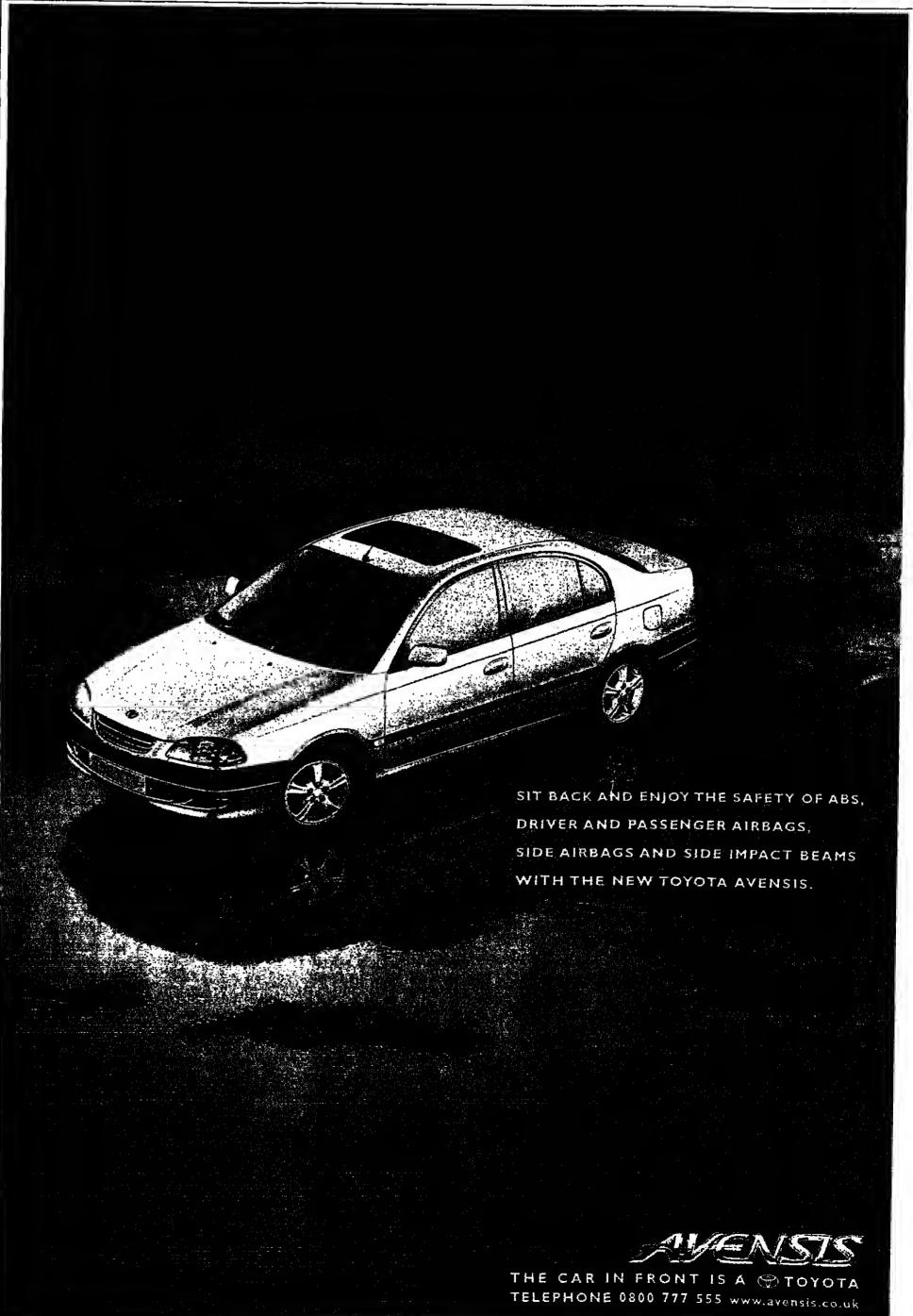
With jaw-dropping candour if we want and we can get the producer of an experi- things on TV that wouldn't mental new BBC comedy normally make it."

The writers and perform-"potential for the show to be ers of the show come from all parts of the comedy world. The only criteria being they have do something different and they have to work for the Equity minimum.

There will be 30 sketches per show crammed into the ditional sketch show. If it is half hour with as many writers and performers contributing as possible. "People will look at them and wonder what the hell we are doing. Some of it is very odd," Mr Clarke said.

The idea behind the show is for the BBC to trawl the massive reservoir of comedy what new stars it can come up with. "There is every reason why it could be very good, given its hudget," said Mr Clarke. "But the potential to be terrible is great. But unless it was this cheap we wouldn't get to do it."

--- Paul McCann Media Correspondent



DAILY POEM

Taken Awares

By Jamie McKendrick

I fall into every trap they set for me mantrap, mousetrap, birdlime.

I take the bail the worm, the cheese, whatever.

I pluck the wire that shifts the lever that springs the teeth.

Then, in the calm before death, I flatter myself I'd seen it all a mile off.

l even manage a small laugh.

Our Daily Poems until Monday 19 January (when the winner will be announced) come from the 10 volumes shortlisted for the 1997 TS Eliot Prize, presented by the Poetry Book Socicty. All the authors will take part in a reading on Sunday 18 January at 7.30pm in the Almeida Theatre, London N1 (box office: 0171-359 4404). This poem comes from The Marble Fly (OUP, £6.99). © Jamie McKendrick.

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Khatami launches TV diplomacy with America

In a much-heralded broadcast on international television, the Iranian President, Mohammad Khatami, last night sought to end nearly two decades of hostility with the United States and move towards more normal relations. Mary Dejevsky reports on the background to the broadcast and the message it conveyed.

This two-part hroadcast on the Cable News Network (CNN) was without precedent. The elected leader of one of the most conservative regimes in the world had decided to bypass conventional channels of diplomacy and use the 20th century medium of communications to public.

In a formal that suggested President gave a short, unedited, address and then answered ternational correspondent. Christiane Amanpour. That Mr Iranian missile programme. Khatami agreed tu be interviewed by a woman correspondent - albeit one with her bair decorously covered - also sent a message, to America and liberalism detected in his election programme (and believed to have brought him victory) was for real.

Yesterday's broadcast came three weeks after Mr Khatami had first intimated publicly at an opening towards the US. Speaking at the conference of Islamic countries in Tchran last month, he suggested a "thoughtful dialogue" hetween Iran and "the about the prospects for immigreat people and nation of America".

That conference was something uf a diplomatic coup for Iran: it altracted a big turn-out of Islamic leaders, completely



that had been seen as a counterweight. The confirmation of Iran's growing regional influcoce may have encouraged Mr Khatami to risk his olive branch to the US.

If be bad been hoping for a positive response from Washington, at least in public, he may have been disappointed. The State Department called for "deeds, not words" and said that Iran would be judged by its acappeal direct to the American tions. Since then it has drawn attention to reports of sales of Russian missile technology to long negotiations and elements Iran. And yesterday, on the uf compromise, the Iranian morning of Mr Khatami's broadcast, representatives of the Iranian opposition in exile questions from CNN's senior in- in the US published what they said was new evidence about an Relations between Iran and

the US have been hostile, varying from warlike to fractious. ever since the 1979 Islamic revolution which ousted the Shah Iran, that the hints of relative and brought the ayatollahs to power. The 414-day siege of the US embassy, in which 52 US diplomats were held hostage, was a heroic chapter for Iran's revolution. For Washington, it was a national humilianon that arguably cost Jimmy Carter, the last Democrat president before Bill Clinton, a second term.

> White House officials and advisers, whose views diverge nent change in Iran and the strength of President Khatami's conservative avatollahs, are re-



Modern media: Mohammad Khatami used the CNN interview to hint at his liberalism

international prestige without gaining something in return.

The signals coming from influence vis-à-vis the more Iran have also been mixed, with the country's supreme ported to have been locked in leader. Ayatollah Ali Khameini, debate about how to proceed. and other senior avatollahs with Iran. Moving away from Washington is concerned not to denying any desire for rap- outright hostility towards

newspaper reports of scant popular support for mending fences with the "Great Satan".

Washington has, nonetheless, compelling reasons to be interested in better relations conference the previous week be trapped into boosting Iran's prochement with the US, and Tehran could give the US an-

sure on Iraq and containing the retreat from the Helms-Burton leadership Talihan Afghanistan.

Iran could be co-opted to play a positive role in supporting Bosnia's Muslims, so halnncing Scrbian influence, cially France, and has dam-Improved relations also uffer aged US diplomacy.

uther avenue for exerting pres- the US the chance of a gracious legislation as it applies to Iran. At present, third countries that trade with Iran are threatened with US sanctions, but the law has riled the Europeans, espe-

Photograph: Reuters

FACTS AND **FIGURES**

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The Islamic Republic of Iran:

Population: 56 million

Land area: 634,000 sq. miles (UK: 95,000 sq

Capital: Tehran

Population: 6 million

Per capita GDP: £1,050. In the UK: £10,500

Main exports: Oil. Iran produces 5.3 per cent of the world's oil. Also exports gas, petrochemicals, steel and

Main imports: Technological products, industrial equipment.

Government: Supreme Leader is Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, a religious leader with wide powers of patronage, and legitimacy built in to the constitution. President Mohammed Khatami, elected 1997 is a "mild reformer".

Religion: 99 per cent Muslim. (93 per cent Shia. 6 per cent Sunni)

Official language: Farsi

Life expectancy: 65 male. 66 female

Literacy: 54 per cent

— Gidon Freeman

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Caspian oil soothes troubled waters for West

Iran's gradual reopening to sia. Since last March, Turkthe world comes at a time menistan has refused to transwhen Tehran is increasingly on port gas to Russia, Ukraine the minds of Western policy- and some uther former Soviet makers.

ingly central role in the Caspi- debt and transit fees. an region, and given its huge implications for America, Europe and Russia. New oil and to take shape, despite United States opposition.

Neighbouring menistan recently opened a modest hut important pipeline for transporting gas from the Turkmen Korpedzhe field tu the Iranian town of Kurd Kuy. This signals a hig shift in

regional politics. For the first time Moscow's porting energy products, while America turns a blind cyc. Washington has decided that an agreement to transport gas via Iran to Turkey does not violate a 1996 sanctions act, and it has become clear that the Caspian nations with their unlimited resources are not going to abandon the Iranian option.

Given the ethnic conflicts and complicated regional Caspian region, Iran has naturally emerged as the most reliable country for pumping out the area's vast oil and gas resources.

the Central Asian republics' and economic cooperation ability to pursue policies independent of Russia. At present a neutral position between Issia's oil pipeline monopoly and gas monopoly respectively, have almost total control of the transportation of resources from ments of mutual cooperation in the region.

tral Asian republics to make se- of Central Asia and the Caurious profits as long as they are casus. effectively duminated by Rus-

republics because of a dispute Iran is assuming an increas- over gas prices, accumulated

The three proposed routes energy resources, that has hig for transportation of Caspian oil hacked by the West all avoid Iran. But they are by no gas links between the Caspian means trouble free. All three nations and Iran are beginning pass through complicated Caucasian geography and territory which is dogged by ethnic disputes.

Of higgest concern to oil executives is, however, the danger of sabotage. For although the region is relatively quiet at the mument, the countries' fragile democracies mean they cannot make any firm promises.

The US had hoped that, former Central Asian colonies fullowing the collapse of the Soare bypassing Russia when ex- viet Union, Nato ally Turkey would play a major role in the Turkic countries of Central Asia. At the same time, Turkey dreamt of stretching a Turkic belt from the Adriatic to the Great Wall of China. However, both plans failed.

In contrast, Iran has played a steady game of pragmatic diplomacy: it has dropped its emphasis on Islamic fundamentalism and opted for more politics which dominate the traditional Iranian foreign and trade policy; throughout the conflict between Shia Muslim Azeris and Christian Armenians Iran has maintained a strong reladonship with Armenia and is One consequence of Iran's smoothing its relationship with active role in the region will be Azerbaijan by signing a trade agreement; and it has adopted Transneft and Gazprom, Rus- lamist guerrillas and ex-communist rulers in Persianspeaking Tajikistan.

It has also signed agreeeconomic. trade and other ar-It is impossible for the Cen- eas with most of the republics

— Gayane Afrikian

Netanyah to decide

The US peace shrow. Dennis Ross, meets Israeli and Palestinian leaders this week. At issue is how much pressure he will gut on Benjamin Netznychu wer Israeli withdrawa! from the West Bank. fine Code or in

krusalem reports on how American demands te threatening to tear bad's ruling coalition

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13/WORLD NEWS

Afrikaners champion Botha's cause of silence

Former South African president, P W Botha, is to be prosecuted for defying a subpoena to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Mary Braid reports from Johannesburg

Prosecutors announced yester- Botha, who, despite his recent day that Mr Botha, 82, must apof the TRC, the body set up to expose the atrocities of the apartheid era. Mr Botha has condemned the TRC as a "circus" and a "witchhunt" against Afrikaners.

Desmond Tutu has bent over avoid the martyring of Mr he chaired in the late 1980s and eral of the Western Cape, said after its nine-day public hear-

engagement to a woman half his pear in court later this month age, is reported by his lawyers for failing to attend a hearing to be in ill health. But all attempts to get the former president to cooperate with the TRC have failed.

There are fears Mr Botha may become a focus for white discontent with the new politi-TRC chairman Arhebishop cal dispensation. Mr Boths has refused to testify on the work of backwards in recent months to the state security council which

security forces.

The commission also wants er apartheid-era abuses including border raids into neighbouring countries, the state's chemical warfare programme and the murder of Afrikaner Beeld newspaper, black activists

Frank Khan, attorney gen-

emergency in which thousands prosecute Mr Botha, who faces against Winnie Madikizelaof blacks died in clashes with the a substantial fine or two years in prison, had not been easy, given his age and health. But he to question Mr Botha about oth- said that the law, as well as the public interest, demanded a

> Yesterday Tim du Plessis, assistent editor of the liberal said that the TRC had no choice but to press charges, particularly

prosecution.

Mandela. The commission had to maintain a political balance.

Mr du Plessis said many Afrikaners did regard the TRC as a witchhunt but it remained Botha would get. Mr Botha became estranged from the National Party after he was ousted from power by FW de Klerk, the country's last white president.

which imposed a brutal state of yesterday that the decision to ing into murder allegations Klerk, who ended apartheid and began the inevitable journey to black majority rule, sold out the Afrikaner. Yesterday, the NP response was measured. A spokesman said that Mr Kahn had no choice but to presecute to be seen how much support Mr but added that the TRC should not have forced the issue. The far right-wing Conservative party said it would support Mr Botha and that Mr Kahn's decision was designed to humili-Mr Botha believes Mr de ate the Afrikaner nation.



PW Boths: Defiant

Zimbabwe land plan attacked

Britain said vesterday that it could not support a programme by President Robert Mugabe's government to seize some 1,500 white-owned farms and warned that the takenvers would harm Zimbabwe's international credibility.

The Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said the programme failed to meet conditions that would allow Britain to contribute aid towards the resettlement of landless blacks on seized properties. He said Britain was also dismayed that some land already acquired by the state for resettlement lay idle tong after it was vacated by owners,

Mr Lloyd said that Britain viewed seizures scheduled to start this year as breaching ownership rights, and they were unlikely to benefit the poor and were not being carried out transparently. He said one aim of his two-day visit was to show "there's no ambiguity in Britain's position" on land seizures.

Last November, Mr Mugabe's government released a list of mostly white-owned farms targeted for handover to landless peasants. It gave farmers a month to lodge appeals. Mr Mugabe said then that Britain, the colonial power before independence in 1980, should be the one to compensate "its children". But Mr Lloyd said yesterday: "Britain has no direct obligation in this area."

Farming leaders have predicted a 40 per cent drop in agricultural production if the takeovers begin after the harvesting ends in August. The government has said it will pay only for buildings and improvements on farms, not the land, arguing land was seized from peasants by white settlers.

About 4,000 white farmers own one-third of Zimbabwe's land, with 8 million peasants living on another third.

- AP, Harare



Mystery deaths: Fishing investigators measuring one of more than 140 dolphins' bodies found on Venezuela's La Tortuga Island in the Caribbean. Navy officials said the cause of death was not known, but could be mass suicide, being stranded on the beach after chasing tuna or seaweed poisoning Photograph: Reuters

Rwanda rebels on rampage

Hutu rebels killed at least 12 Rwandans and abducted 14 others, including alleged Hutu informers, a military official

said yesterday. The rebels killed minority Tutsis as well as Hutus they accused of collaborating with the Tutsi-led government in predawn attacks on Tuesday, said Colonel Karenze Karake, deputy commander for the re-

All 14 of those abducted from the neighbouring villages of Ngororero and Nyakahanda, 40 kilometres (25 miles) west of Kigali, were Hutus, he said.

Rebels left a note saying they were abducting one man because he had co-operated with the government.

The army did not know what had happened to the missing

On Monday, rebels attacked Kibilira and Muhoruro, 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of Kigali, killing an unknown number of civilians and looting shops, Col Karenze said.

The rebels include members of Rwanda's defeated militia and army, which slaughtered more than 500,000 people, mostly Tutsis and moderate Hutus, in 1994.

The genocide was stopped by Tutsi rebels, who now control the central African country.

Netanyahu under pressure to decide on withdrawal

The US peace envoy, Dennis Ross, meets Israeli and Palestinian leaders this week. At issue is how much pressure he will put on Benjamin Netanyahu over Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank. Potrick Cockburn in Jerusalem reports on how American demands are threatening to tear Israel's ruling coalition

Dennis Ross, the American peace envoy, is not a man with a reputation for putting pressure on Israel. In the past Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders have hinted publicly that they regard him as little more than an Israeli agent.

But his present visit is critical for the survival of the Israeli

together with a United States

destrover conducted naval ma-

nocurres in the east Mediter-

denunciations in the Arab

world of the new military al-

liance between Israel and

called "Reliant Mermaid", took

Haifa. Five vessels - the Israeli

missile boats Lahav and Nitzu-

hon, the Turkish frigates Yavuz

and Zafer and the USS John

Rodgers - carried out a simu-

lated search-and-rescue exercise

looking for survivors of a supposedly sunken fishing vessel.

The operation underlines

The 12-hour-long exercise,

place off the Israeli port of and Turkey.

President Bill Clinton in Washington on 20 January, cannot put off a decision on how far Israel is going to withdraw on the West Bank much longer. If he withdraws from at least 10 per cent of the West Bank - as he has promised - then the farright in the Knesset (parliament) will vute against him. If support uf the centre right,

such as the Third Way party.

Mr Netanyahu has succeeded in playing for time before. But Israeli political commentators believe that his administration will have difficulty in surviving for the rest of the year. The resignation of David Levy, the foreign minister, at the week-end emphasised that the government is in a permanent state of crisis.

Mr Ross has already held talks with Mr Netanyahu who presides over a cobinet increasingly dominated by Ariet Sharon, the Infrastructure Minister, who government. Mr Netanyahu, advocates a minimal withdraw-

Israeli and Turkish warships the strength of the military link grade Turkish airforce F-4

two strongest military powers in

the Middle East, which has de-

military agreement in 1996.

Yitzhak Mordechai, the Israeli

defence minister, agreed yes-

terday that there was a security aspect to the manoeuvres, the

first of their kind between Israel

other country. It's only to be

able to coordinate and to have

Israeli aircraft can carry out ex-

ercises in Turkish airspace. Is-

rael has also signed contracts

worth \$700m (£440m) to up-

Under the 1996 agreement

exercises together," he said.

"[They] are not against any

between Israel and Turkey, the Phantoms and F-5s.

Military manoeuvres anger Arab world

ranean vesterday, sparking veloped since they signed a

the Prime Minister, who sees alon the West Bank. Under the interim accords of 1995, Israel promised to end the occupation of most of the West Bank where 1.5 million Palestinians live.

The American envoy says Mr Netanyahu did not give him details of the intended Israeli withdrawal. He then met Mr Arafat in Bethlehem who told him that Israel had "no he does not, then he will lose the more excuses" for delaying troop withdrawals agreed in interim peace deals. "I'm out here to work on the process, to work with both sides to try to find ways to move forward in advance of the meetings that will take place in Washington," Mr

> Ross told reporters. The last time peace talks showed any results was when Israel withdrew from most of the West Bank city of Hebron a year ago. With the departure of Mr Levy the only senior cabinet minister favouring a significant withdrawal is Yitzhak Mordechai, the Defence Minister, but he is increasingly isolated.

Syria, sandwiched between

Turkey and Israel, feels threat-

ened by the new alliance, as do

Iran, Iraq and Greece, Turkey's

other neighbours. Turkish

troops have repeatedly entered

Egypt believes that its value

to the US as a strategic ally is

being reduced. An alliance with

Turkey may also make it casier

for Israel to freeze the Oslu ac-

cords with the Palestinians and

face a renewed cold war with the

Arah world. Only Jordan sent

a military contingent to yester-

Patrick Cockburn

northern Iran in pursuit of Kur-

dish guerrillas.

day's exercise.

Another 62 reported dead in Algeria's bloodiest month

Attackers killed 62 civilians and wounded 48 in massacres in Algeria's western province of Relizane, Algerian state-run radio reported yesterday. The province was the scene of previous massacres in which authorities said 78 were killed in one night, though other reports said 400 died. Hundreds of civilians began fleeing the remote mountainous region after a massacre a week ago and the exodus picked up after gunmen attacked two villages. The carnage appeared to confirm the fear of most Algerians that the month of Ramadan has become the bloodiest period for civilian deaths in the country's six-year-old strife.

New chapter in drug war

The business editor of the Miami Herald, unwrapping two cartons labelled "books", found 53lb of what appeared to be cocaine, and 80z of suspected heroin. The package, mailed in the Colombian capital, Bogots, was worth \$1m (£600,000m). Customs and FBI agents, who had been monitoring the package, confiscated the drugs. They questioned the Herald editor but said she was not considered a suspect. The package had been addressed to the business section of the newspa-Phil Davison, Miami

Moi's 'rigged' poll deplored

The Kenyan opposition leader Mwai Kibaki, runner-up to President Daniel arap Moi in last week's elections, said his Democratic Party would sit in parliament but continue to reject the results of what he called a rigged election. "We cannot boycott parliament, because that would be giving Moi a free hand in forming the laws," he told a rally. "We will carry on the fight for the people in parliament." Mr Kibaki's party won 39 seats, coming second to Mr Moi's Kenya African National Union, which won 108.

Russians reclaim Christmas

Russians yesterday celebrated the birth of Christ with church services and a children's festival, reclaiming a holiday suppressed under Communism. "Happiness, prosperity, peace and joy," proclaimed the Orthodox Patriarch, Alexy II, outside Moscow's rebuilt Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Russians schedule their religious observances according to the old Julian calendar. Christmas was banned by the Bolsheviks and restored after the fall of the Soviet Union. AP, Moscow

Montserrat correction

In the story published on 22 December 1997 headed "Montscrrat fears Britain's hidden agenda", by Phil Davison, the comments attributed to local businessman John Wilson were in fact made by local Montserratian writer Cheddy Browne. The Independent regrets the error, which occurred in the editing process.

Jury indecision is lifeline for Oklahoma bomb plotter

The judge in the Oklahoma City bombing trial said yesterday that he would decide the sentence on the convicted conspirator Terry Nichols after the jury in the case could not reach a decision despite two days of deliberations.

Federal judge Richard Matsch said in court that the jury had told him it could not reach a unanimous decision on Nichols' intentions.

The jury convicted Nichols last month of conspiracy and involuntary manslanghter in the April 19, 1995 attack that killed 168 people.

The jury's failure to reach a unanimous decision effectively snared Nichols the death penalty handed to his co-consoirator, Timothy McVeigh, last June. Unlike the jury. Judge Matsch does not have the power to im-

pose a death sentence. He said he would not set a date for a sentencing hearing until he had heard submissions from both the defence and prosecution lawyers, which he at the end of the day that they



Nichola Unlikely to be condemned to death

told them to make by 9 February. Judge Matsch can imprison Nichols for life or choose a

shorter sentence Jurors, clearly strained by their task - two of them cried in court on Tuesday, including penalty only for the conspiracy the forewoman - told the judge

could not reach a decision. He did not announce this until court opened yesterday. Judge Matsch told the jurors that they had done their job. "I

do not want you to feel that you have in any way failed to meet your responsibility," he said. A bank clerk on the jury cried and others looked de-

Nichols sat expressionless, but after the jury left the room he smiled and hugged one of his lawyers. Another lawyer patted him on the back. "I guess that's what we

hoped and prayed for," said Nichols' sister, Suzanne Mc-Donnell.

McVeigh was convicted of all charges in the bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City, an attack that stunned America.

But Nichols was acquitted of murder and of carrying out the attack. He faced the death

Reuters, Denver

No gays please – we're Cayman Islanders

The Caymans are not for gay men. That could be the motto of the popular Caribbean resort islands after they turned away a cruise liner chartered by 900 mostly-American gays. Gay and civil rights groups are outraged.

The Norwegian Cruise Line's "love boat", The Leeward, had requested a routine seven-hour stopover in the Caymans on a one-week holiday cruise out of Miami starting at the end of this month.

On hearing that the cruise was an all-gay package, the island's tourism minister, Thomas Jefferson, apparently unswayed by his famous namesake's ef- a boycott of the Caymans. "It's forts towards life, liberty and the appalling. I can't believe a coun-

the cruise company last month: tourism would tell an entire class perience has led us to conclude that we cannot count on this group to uphold the standards of appropriate behaviour expected of visitors to the Cayman Islands. So we regrettably cannot offer our hospitality."

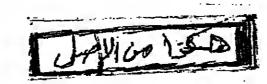
The Leeward will head instead for the former British colony of Belize to allow its pessengers to stop over for shopping and snorkelling.

Gay travel agencies in the gay business at around £600m a pursuit of happiness, wrote to try whose economy is based on

"careful research and prior ex- of people they're not welcome." said David Smith of the Human Rights Campaign, a leading gay rights organisation. "It's not only economically foolish. It's morally wrong. We're exploring further action."

Atlantis Events Inc., of California, which chartered the Leeward, said it would fax details of the Caymans' decision to 4,500 travel agents in its database. "I find it astonishing that in 1998 you could elicit such a US, which estimate worldwide strong response to 900 wellheeled men who want to stop year, said they would consider for seven hours of diving and shopping," said Atlantis president Rich Campbell.

- Phil Davison, Miami



LA gardeners go on hunger strike over right to make a din

A ban on petrol-powered provoked a culture clash

in a city where lawns are manicured as carefully as hair. Tim Comwell reports from Los Angeles on how a neighbourhood row has taken on the character of a human rights struggle.

The Latino gardeners who keep Los Angeles greeo and tidy yesterday vowed to continue their hunger strike outside the City Hall, where a small tent city sprang up last Friday. The issue: a council han on leaf blowers, enacted at the hehest of wealthy home-owners and Hollywood stars.

The sight of a Hispanic man with an engine strapped to his back and a giant nozzle in his hand, propelling leaves along the grass or pavement in a obisy cloud of dirt and smoke, has long been a fixture in the better-off areas of LA. It is a symbol of a city not only addicted to the internal combustion engine, but where immigrants from Latin

America too often appear as sec- \$270 (£170) for gardeners and the jobs of maids, gardeners, and parking attendants.

the leaf blowers add to LA's smog, compared with the cogines of its giant cars, has never been calculated. It is the buzz-saw noise that has most in-Graves, the Mission Impossible "We're all victims of this machioe," he told the council.

The leaf blowers do indeed seem noisy and dirty. But the gardeoers say that if they are limited to time-consuming brush or rake, they canoot make ecough to live on by clearing lawns or drives oo commissioo, sometimes as many as a dozen a day.

sic tool that they use every day and we're saying you can't use through again today, by a 9-6 it," council member Mike Hernaodez, who represents the removed a threatened six-month heavily Hispanic east LA, told a packed chamber.

petrol-powered leaf blowers within 500 feet of residential arturers, who say it is impossible eas, at risk of fees and fines of to lower their decibel level.

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ond-class citizens, relegated to those who hire them. Neighbours can call the police, or make a citizeo's arrest. Mayor Exactly how much pollution Richard Riordan, who supports the ban, is expected to sign the measure within 10 days.

A dozen people are now camped outside the City Hall. however, vowing to consume furiated the likes of Peter nothing but water and sports drinks. "The situation is realactor, and his wife. Joan. ly bad for us. We're staying until we have some action," said activist Adrian Alvarez, of Association of Latin American

> Eovironmentalists, spearheaded by Joan Graves and ac-

tress Julie Newmar - Catwoman on the Batman television show - have campaigned for a dozen years to outlaw the blowers. Other Californian cities, including "We have a group of working people, and this is their baenacted in mid-1996, but voted margin, with amendments that jail term. A more realistic obstacle than the gardeners' The new law bans the use of protest may be a threatened law suit by the machines' manufac-



Actor Peter Graves: 'We are all victims of this machine,' he says, infuriated by the buzz-saw noise of the leaf blowers

Photograph: Kobal Collection

Militan protest alarm J

Protests against

premployment are gaining scrength in France and alarming the

gwemment. a Paris reports on the

growing politicisation of

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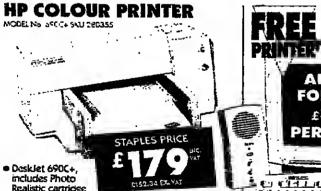


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Dead raise shrine to Garcia

With the passing in 1995 of Jerry Garcia, the Grateful Dead reached the end of its weird and wonderful road, But, as David Usborne finds out, Deadheads may soon have a place to go worship. Where? In San Francisco, of course.

It is up to the world's Deadheads to ponder what Jerry Garcia must be thinking. A theme park dedicated to his legacy? Is this the way to memorialise the hand that grew from Haight-Ashhury, the seedbed of

1960s flower power? Deadheads, of course, are the most popular of concert used to gather to trade crafts. terested investors.

industry. And, on balance, they must he pleased with the news out of San Francisco.

venerable group have announced plans to build a giant cotertainment and performance late Garcia himself, who died of heart trouble in August 1995 after a long battle with drugs.

If all goes well, the centre. which will be as large as the stadiums the band used to perform in, will be huilt in time for a special opening, with concert, on New Year's Eve 1999. It will be named "Terrapin Station", in honour of one of the group's alhums, released in 1977.

draws of the entire rock music foods and their special hrand of wisdom before going inside.

Provisional drawings call for restaurants, shops and possibly Surviving members of the even a Grateful Dead hotel and apartment complex. There will also be two theatres, one called the Jerry Garcia Theatre, and complex in the city centre ded- another, the Wheel, a multiicated to their music and to the media dance hall with holograms of the man himself.

Any comparisons with Mickey Mouse are not welcome, however. This is not a theme park." group manager Cameron

Hopes are high that 1.2 million Deadheads will visit the new shrine every year. Band members have pledged \$3.5m (£2.1m) to construction costs which are expected to reach The entrance hall of which around \$60m. Of that, \$1.5m the legions of disciples who for will resemble a stadium car- will come from sales last year of three decades ensured that the park, designed to recapture the a CD box-set of of a 1990 live hand that named itself the atmosphere at the parking lots performance. Stock will be of-Grateful Dead remained one of at Dead concerts, where fans fered, meanwhile, to other in-

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Champagne is a small village in "champagne". The bottles, lowing the local biscuit-makers Switzerland (population 700), whose name has been its fortuoe. It may sooo become its misfortune.

Following complaints by French wioe producers, the village has been ordered to cease labelling its wine - which is white but non-hubbly - as wine from Champagne." The French fraud squad seized 3,000 bottles of the Swiss champagne, actually a kind of Pinot, from French supermarkets over the Christmas period.

The affair threatens to become a source of friction hetween Switzerland and the European Union, which has taken France's side in the case.

Villagers point out that their commune has been called Champagne for 1,143 years. Besides, they say, they are not trying to pass off their wine as France and Switzerland, al-

pagne bottles, are labelled wine from the "commuoe vaudoise de Champagne" or "wine from the vaudoise bank of lake Neuchatel, Champagne appellation d'origine".

The French producers, backed by Paris and Brussels, argue that this is a deliberate attempt to cash in on the celebrity of the champagne name. The mayor of Champagne, Albert Banderet, says this is bullying and unfair.

"We have no problem with making it as clear as possible that our produce is Swiss hut we will not give up the right to use the name of our commune, which goes back to the year 855.'

After a long wrangle, a deal was reached in 1991 between

which do not resemble charn- to use the word. But charnpagne producers have fought hattles all around the world to protect the sanctity of the brand-name of their wine.

Swiss officials were forced to concede the point last year during tricky negotiations in Brussels on a range of EU-Swiss farm trade issues. A draft agreement, still not formally ratified by Switzerland, reengnises the sole right of the French region to market wine called champagne or to use the word champagne as an "ap-

pellation d'origine". The deal is being disputed by Swiss politicians, A local MP. Martial Girod, asked: "Must we one day abolish the name of one of our villages just to help negotiations between Switzerland and the EU?"

DAEWOO

– John Lichfield, Paris



Protests against unemployment are gaining strength in France and alarming the government. John Lichfield in Paris reports on the growing politicisation of an underclass of 3 million.

The French government sought vesterday, with a bizarre mixture of praise and cash, to head off a rapidly spreading revolt by the loog-term unemployed. Peaceful demonstrations in Paris and a score of provincial towns added to the pressure from a rolling programme of sit-ins at

demnation of the protests, the employment minister Martine "citizenship" and "commitment". She also promised the cided to intervene himself. government would provide more public cash to help the semi-private agency which administers the dole in France to find extra money for "urgent cases".

The agency, Unedic, jointly run by employers and unions, was meeting last night to consider the details. The Prime Minister, Lionel Jospin, is expected to make a further statement today to try to calm a campaign which threatens the unity of his left-of-centre coalition government.

Up to 5,000 unemployed people and left-wing activists demon-

strated outside the Unedic headquarters in Paris yesterday afternoon and then marched on the economic ministry. Similar demonstrations were held in towns all over France. The protesters, organised by pressure groups for the long-term jobless and the hard-liners of the Communist trade unions movement. are demanding higher dole and

an end-of-year bonus of £300. Although the numbers involved are still relatively small, the movement has been rapidly gathering strength in the last three week and enjoys considerable public sympathy.

The Jospin government has been shakeo by the protests. with greeo and Communist dole offices around the country. ministers supporting the Reversing her earlier con- demonstrators and Ms Aubry originally condemning them as "illegal". Mr Jospin has, by al Aubry praised the demonstrators' accounts, persuaded Ms Aubry to take a softer line but also de-

> The most alarming feature of the protests from Mr Jospin's point of view is that the newly militant unemployed are not demanding work hut better beoefits. This runs against his government's policy of promoting growth by keeping down public spending while tinkering with the length of the working

week to try to create more jobs. Campaign leaders warned last night that they expected concrete promises from Mr Jospin today or they would "continue to extend the movement".

Feminists claim

Mermaid's head-

The beloved statue of the Lit-

tle Mermaid in Copenhagen

Danish television stations

received a statement purport-

edly from the Radical Feminist

Faction, claiming responsibility for the vandalism of the stat-

head." the statement said.

"We have sawed off the

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New fears at Chernobyl

The condition of the shell covering Chemobyl's ruined nuclear reactor worsened over was decapitated as a protest 1997, increasing the chances it against sexism, a previously unwill collapse and release ra- known group said in a statement dioactive dust, an official said. vesterday.

Studies last year showed that the roof of the concreteand-steel shelter is in bad shape and a collapse is becoming "more and more" likely, said Chernohyl deputy director Valentin Kupuy.

The beams holding up the head of the Little Mermaid. roof are in "catastrophic con- which is a symbol of hostility to dition," said Mr Kupny, who is women and of men's sexually responsible for the sarcophagus obsessed dreams in which that was hastily built over the re- women only are bodies with oo actor after the 1986 disaster.

There are 34 metric tons of radioactive dust in the structure, Copenhageo police, said that and that amount increases by several tons every year as fuel masses break up.

Germany's brief concession

Never again will German soldiers be embarrassed by what is lurking under their trousers. The defence ministry, in a brief statement yesterday, consented to the squaddies' age-old demand. Heoceforth, they may wear boxers. Y-froots or whatever takes their fancy. It was noticed that the regulation issue white undershirts and pants never left the barracks. "It turned out a lot of soldiers, particularly when they were going out, didn't find them sery enough," a ministry spokesman explained. Conscripts will now have a choice hetween the regular underwear or DM50 (£17.25) to huy their own.

--- Imre Karacs, Bonn



The Hong Kong government will announce today that it is to end its 19-year-old policy of granting a port of first asylum to Vietnamese boat people. Stephen Vines in Hong Kong reports that this brings to an end a controversial humanitarian effort which has seen almost 200,000 Vietnamese make their way to the territory's shores.

The decision to end the first asylum policy, taken at a meeting of Hong Kong's Executive Council on Tuesday, came after China made it clear that it would not tolerate any Victnamese asylum seckers in its new territory.

The move will be popular in Hong Kong where there is resentment over the amount of money spent on the Vict- refugee status. However the namese. There is also resentment over their right to land which contrasts with the plight of illegal immigrants from the Chinese mainland who are

immediately deported. Under pressure from Butain, Hong Kong reluctanily took on the burden of mer colony. Yet 3,364 are allowing boat people to land still here, most living in a in the hope they would be re- heavily fortified detention settled in third countries. centre in a remote area. Al-Neighbouring countries such most 400 cannot go hack to as Singapore and Malaysia were pushing the boats back Chinese who are not recogout to sea. Many lost their lives to pirates or were raped

and robbed while at sea. the fall of Saigon, almost

Very quickly the government ran out of space to house the asylum seekers. At one stage the authorities had to resort to taking over an empty factory and commandeered the military airport to accommodate the iens of thousands awaiting resettlement.

The countries, including Britain, who promised to give new homes to the Vietnamese were less than generous in granting immigration visas. As a result, generations of boat people families were born and raised in the grim camps where they were treated as prisoners, although guilty uf

By 1988, it was decided to treat all boat people as illegal immigrants unless they could prove they qualified for refugee status, A tough screening policy was introduced, then in 1989 the government embarked on a policy of forced deportation.

From that point on it was made increasingly difficult for the Vietnamese to obtain outflow could not be capped. In 1991 another 20,000 boat people landed in Hong Kong.

Before taking over Hong Kong, the Chinese authorities told the British government that it wanted all the Vietnamese cleared out of the for-Vietnam as they are ethnic nised as citizens by the Vietnamese authorities.

The Hong Kong govern-At the height of the flight ment claims that all those enfrom Vietnam in 1979, after tening the territory in recent times are economic migrants. 69,000 boat people landed in seeking work in the relatively Hong Kong in a single year. prosperous territory.



Arrivals: Carabinieri escort 25 Kurdish immigrants who swam the last few metres to Frassanito beach yesterday from a boat bringing them to Italy Photograph: Paolo Cocco/Reuters

Britain leads action to stem flow of Kurds to Europe

Alarmed by an "influx" of Kurdish refugees, EU governments look set to endorse a British-led crackdown on illegal immigrants to prevent any more Kurds leaving Turkey or Iraq, writes Katherine Butler.

Kurds from Turkey and Iraq. European police chiefs gather curity strategy.

Italy, where almost 2,000 Kurds arrived last week, is exparticularly from the Germans,

Amid fears that the continent's to supply detailed intelligence passport-free travel zone could on mafia gangs suspected of be overwhelmed by a flood of trafficking in clandestine migrants, and to tighten legislation which allows potential refugees in Rome today to map out a sc- to remain in the country for two

Police heads from those countries most concerned -. pected to come under pressure Italy, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Greece and Turkey - will attend against the backdrop of warnings from Italian coastguards that another ship carrying Kurdish refugees is on the way.

Under a barrage of criticism from its European Union neighbours, particularly the Gennans, who fear they will end up bearing the brunt of the latest influx, Italian leaders were forced yesterday to reassure Bonn that they would enforce border controls and deal with

asylum applications individually, not collectively.

But while the short term tocus is on Italian coastal controls, the political reaction in EU capitals yesterday was to lend backing to a British "action plan" which civil liberties groups and human-rights organisations are likely to view as a threat to international legal safeguards for those genuinely fleeing

Although Britain is not a sigthroughout Europe, British proposals received strong support when national migration and asylum experts from all 15 EU member states met in Brussels yesterday to consider new measures.

could be endorsed by Home Affairs ministers when they meet in Birmingham on 27 January. include a plan to issue airlines with clear warnings on their liability to weed out Turkish or Iraqi Kurds travelling to

the EU. Another is urgently to implement "Eurodae", a controversial system for compulsory fingerprinting of immigrants and asylum seekers. Visa procedures would also be coordinatory of the Schengen ac- nated and tightened while cord, which was designed to airline officials would be given allow passpurt-free travel training to help them spot

forged documents. Member state officials admitted last night that the plan could raise fears for the safety of those who genuinely need international protection, but stressed that the political prob- gation is carried out into their Possible lines of action which lem facing Europe must be

tackled urgently. Germany and Holland between them already house around 25,000 Kurdish refugees, experts were told yesterday, and tensions could follow the admission of another

The refugee question is to be reviewed when the European Commission meets the British EU presidency in London today, but last night the Commission was anxious to play down the perceived crisis. It was important not to "exaggerate" the problem posed by the arrival of "a few hundred" Kurds, said a statement.

In Belgium, meanwhile, 11 Kurdish refugees called off a hunger strike after receiving assurances that they would not be expelled until a full investi-

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worried that too many refugees will come knocking at their doors. Just 10 years ago, when the Iron Curtain was still in place, Western governments could afford to be more generous. Those fleeing persecution had a good chance of being taken in - because so few of them managed to reach the West in the first place.

Now, the open borders of Europe mean things are more porous than ever before. Governments are determined to lock and bolt the doors.

The arrival of hundreds of would-be Kurdish refugees in Italy has led to a remarkably hardline response from those countries that most fear that they will be the Kurds' eventual destination.

Germany has led the chorus of indignation - and has angered refugee organisations. Don Flynn, of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants, believes that the hullabaloo in Germany is unnecessary: "There's no evidence to suggest that Europe is facing a refugee crisis. This is something which is generated out of election year." He insists that the Italian action in saying it would consider applications from arriving Kurds was "entirely unexceptional".

Mr Flynn was critical, too, of Britain's contribution to the asylum debate. The Home Office said yesterday it had prepared a "draft action plan" for consideration by the EU, to deal with "the serious problem of illegal immigration and organised crime". Steve Crawshaw



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Taste for a life less ordinary

Kave Quinn's sinister and memorable film sets are in stark contrast with the William Morris wallpaper and bright colours she has chosen to decorate her new home. But her subversive vision is still in play, says Nonie Niesewond.

Kave Quinn's new house in north-west London may be in a modest Victorian terrace, but everything Kave Quinn is doing to it lonks larger than life. Her talent for using colour and pattern in film-sets including Trainspotting, Shallow Grave and A Life Less Ordinary, has made her one of today's hottest talents in the industry. Hardly surprising, then, that in the home she is decorating with her partner, Aidan, she does everything celluloid-style.

The smaller the room, the bigger the scale of the pattern she chooses for the walls. And the more intense the colour. Humble little spaces mutate under theatrical handblocked archival wallpaper from Sandersons. There are willow fronds on steroids designed by William Morris in the front parlour, big birds crouching among tulips coloured by Voysey in pink and purple and lemon, with matching woodwork, in their bedroom. Colours in these wallpapers are so intense it takes a week to print each one - they don't come cheap. Labels on the paint tins - Silver Sky, Golden Aspen, Zephyr Green, Shy Violet, Bardot Red, Magnolia Red - only hint at the hallucinogenic effect she is creating.

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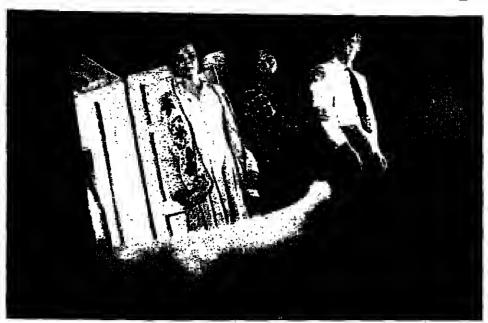
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"I especially like complementary colours. Blue and orange. Pink and green. They zing." Kave Quinn takes colouring in so seriously she visited a mortuary to get the right bedroom wall colour for the Edinburgh flat in the award-winning Shallow Grave, in which the life of three young professionals gradually falls apart when find their new flatmate dead in bed then the interior of the flat could have been an advertisement for Ikea, with pale pine chairs around the trestle tables, big squashy sofas in red and green with contrasting cushions. But the power of colour and light can change a mood, as Quinn well knows. The sickly blue she chose to off-set the pallor of death in the dead man's room hit the screen at the exact monasty. Not just the plot but the colours thicken as they shift from bright sunlight to sinister twilight. Shadows lengthen.

In her own home, Kave Quinn has gone for cosy colours, but I doubt that a band of Merrie Olde Englanders would feel at home there. Before you even get to the archival wallpapers, the hall with pale violet walls, brilliant aquama-









Kave Quinn, creator of sets for 'Shallow Grave', 'Trainspotting' and 'A Life Less Ordinary' (above left, top to hottom), demonstrates her latest look - Arts and Crafts, Nineties style

Nicola Kurtz

rine skirting boards and dark green ceramic tiled floor gives the game away. This isn't Arts and Crafts revisited. It glamorises all that earnest worthiness and subverts it, Nineties style. I can't see the Rossettis recitment when the film turned ing poetry in Quinn's front room, papered with a wavy mauve and ivory leaf pattern from Morris that reflects in the mirror she found while filming in an abandoned home for the mentally disabled in Surrey. Any more than the pre-Raphaelites would play the spinet under her plastic chandelier. The furniture either follows sinuous shapes uphol-

Designers' Guild, or Mormon plain Jane furniture that Quinn picked up on location at Salt Lake City while filming.4 Life Less Ordinary. For that film, she had to design Heaven - and it's all white. Not a touch of magnolia but a white so dazzling and pristine that the camera crew had to wear surgical boots and gloves to film it.

Quinn's skill lies in mixing wildly different aesthetics, drawing ideas from disparate sources and morphing them into design statements. So it's not surprising she dislikes special effects. Ragrolling, scumbling, steucilling stered in crimson and lime and all that "picked-over" look

green by Tricia Guild of the of paint effects are abhorrent to styling Trainspotting was not to for their designs," she says her. So is that completely co-or-"the whole thing mixed and matched, even to what you wear. Just like the Stepford wives."

Standing in the glacier blue conservatory that she and Aidan call a glass-topped extension room - "conservatory is plains how she first discovered wallpapers in an old shop in Paisley, Scotland, while making props for Trainsponing. Chaffertrain Sixties wallpaper in primary colours for the boyhood room where Ewan McGregor's character, Begbie, suffered cold turkey. The difficulty when

glamourise heroin addiction dinated look of Laura Ashley, or to adopt a documentary style, all filth and degradation, that would revolt viewers. So Quinn tried another angle to make it more interesting. She used Francis Bacon's canvasses as an inspiration for the film's intense, day-glo pinks too middle class" - she ex- and oranges, as well as for camera angles to get that peculiar sense of isolation. Distance and scale are important to her. She paced out with producer Danny Boyle every set and layed chalk marks. They often exaggerated room di-

mensions to get long shots. "Films aren't remembered

modestly. "But I like to add another dimension, not necessarily beautiful but to make you see things differently. Like that red bedcover in the blue hedroom in Shallow Grave, which was so

Decadence as an ideal dates back to her days as a punk with pink hair, wearing her own designer clothes and strutting her stuff up Tottenham Court Road. She's very gentle and shy so it must have been worn like a warrior's costume. Then she went to Central St Martin's College of Art and Design and designed her own textiles and collections a year ahead of

that. So she went to film school, started styling ads and worked as an art director and production director on promos, TV films and features. With producer Andrew MacDonald whom she met at film school and Danny Boyle as director, Shallow Grave, her first major film, became an international box-office success story.

John Galliano, Costume design

Now she wants to design textiles again and do some more interior work. She had to turn down The Full Monty because the eventuality."

appealed to her but everything but she says it was the best film in the mid-Eighties was frozen of last year. Besides film work. she also designed an office for in period-piece costume dramas and she was too creative for a film production company in an old warehouse in King's Cross and thinks it would be good to do more of that. Then there's her second child, due at the end of January, and the house to move into. "The incredible thing about Quinn, along with her strong sense of colour and space," says Danny Boyle, "is that you know on the day that everything will be absolutely perfect. It doesn't matter what I decide to do at the last minute. She'll have covered

she was on location in the US,

Dockers vs Miss Jean Brodie, final round

Arguments of the choice of a site for the new Scottish parliament have left precious little time . for the public to have their say, writes Nonie Niesewand.

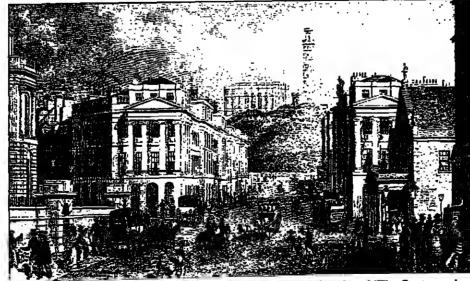
The Scottish Parliament doesn't open until January 1999 but unless the site is chosen soon there won't be a building for the 100 to 129 MSPs to debate in. There still isn't a location, let alone an architect. The Secretary of State for Scotland, Donald Dewar, is expected to locked in conflict over these two announce the location this week sites. The Scotsman newspaper with little public discussion of the relative merits of the competing sites. Time may be of the ton Hill... not anywhere else." essence, but so is money. In assessing the four short-listed sites, the Scottish Office has re- Miss Jean Brodie, a third proalised that it underestimated the posed site at Haymarket was insize of building required. So the total costs will spiral beyond the budgeted £40m to between £50m and £65m.

In September, after the "yesyes" vote for Scottish devolution, there were two sites under consideration, Calton Hill and Leith dockside. Leith, or the would move HQ. This tips it tacgateway of Edinburgh as its entically into the lead.

thusiastic backers call it, can be seen from the Firth of Forth and from Fife, and is bang opposite the Scottish Office. But MSPs don't fancy the schlep out to docklands and transport there would need a hig overhaul.

The popular Calton Hill version, by architects Page and Page, is close to the city centre, Princes Street and the mainline railway station. Their design inchides a natty little debating rotunda to tie in with the old St Andrew's school, which could become the offices. The trouble started when key

figures in the Scottish Office and Edinburgh city council became was clear: "The site for Scotland's parliament must be Cal-As the argument increasingly began to resemble dockers vs troduced. Unlikely to he a runner, it would require huilding over railway tunnels. Just before Christmas a fourth potential site, Holyrood, was entered when its present occupants, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, announced they



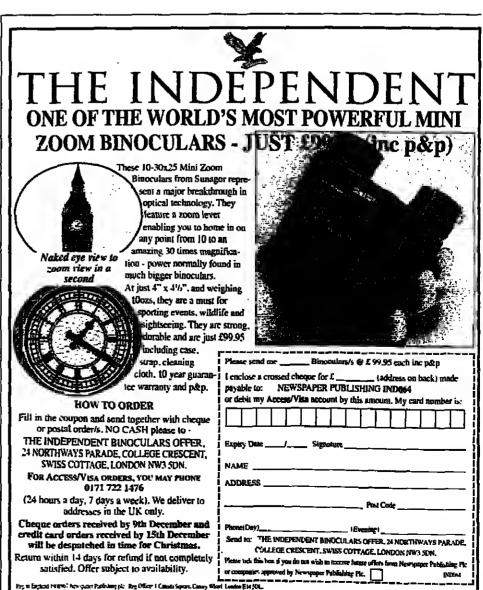
'The site for Scotland's parliament must be Calton Hill,' thundered 'The Scotsman'

affect the type of huilding. You can't huild Alexander the Greek Thompson neo-Classicism on the dockside, anymore than Calton Hill will deconstruct. John Pelan at the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland illustrates the point when he says that he'd vote to get Frank Gehry to huild an incredible Parliament in Leith.

Alas, that isn't a runner. Writing to Donald Dewar on 11 December about the need to exover the four sites to make the decision-making more democratic, the President of RIAS George Wren quoted Thomas Jefferson: "I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of Society but the peoples themselves. And if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion."

In the calm between Christ-

Whatever site is chosen will tend the consultation periods mas and New Year, four feasibility studies of each site went on public view for a few days each in Edinburgh and Glasgow as the pros and cons were assessed by four firms of architects. Expressing the hope that as many people as possible will see the exhibition. Donald Dewar jocularly remarked: "It will make a good break from the New Year sales." Let's hope that in the rush they don't end up with the architectural equivalent of a hargain basement.





The hand that rocks the cradie: how can parents be sure that the seemingly well-adjusted girl they interviewed turns out to be safe with their child?

Photograph: John Lawrence

Nanny on the bottle, parents in the soup

Charlotte Roberts and her husband had always been happy with their nannies in the past. Then along came Clare. We continue our series on the anxieties of the Nineties with a story of how professionals on top of their careers can lose their grip at

Downstairs I can hear the cheerful voices of my two youngest with our latest namey, a jolly, caring, helpful and apparently straightforward Antipodean, who "lives out" and has an active, but not intrusive,

But three months ago I had to sack Clare, our nanny of almost three years and sacking a long-serving, live-in nanny is inevitably a fraught experience.

Clare was introduced to us by a reputable, London-based nanny agency. Both my husband and I have demanding jobs and we needed an experienced, live-in nanny for our three children, who were then all under four. We had already been employing nannies for three years. I checked Clare's references carefully by phone, and all her recent employers said she was wonderful with children. So she moved into our house and, though painfully shy, settled in quickly. We talked through a written contract for child care duties from 7.30am to 7om. plus baby-sitting two nights a week, and she did this with apparent case. Never mind that in the first few weeks she had a few drunken nights out at the weekends. That was none of our business.

We all muddled along quite happily for

tion of having happily kept our nanny for so long. But then we rounded into 1997.

Clare had been a nanny for 12 years and was clearly fed up with it - sbe said that while she was happy looking after our children, she wanted to do more with her life. So, having helped her complete a formal child care qualification, we discussed what other training she might do while working for us, and what career she might move on to. I introduced her to a career counsellor and some other contacts - but she went round and round in circles, unable to decide what to do. Then we noticed that far from her planning to move on, we had in fact become the focal point of her life.

Her social life - always scraped together in a rather desperate fashion and focused on getting drunk - had all but disappeared. I found her tipsy and in tears in her room one night, saying she felt unloved and unwanted. "Why do people keep letting me down, why don't they make the effort to go uut with me?"

On reflection, I realised that while the local nanny circuit was active for her by day. no one seemed to want to socialise with her in their free time.

Then, one Saturday night, she did agree to meet friends in a pub. She came downstairs to wait for her taxi, and was clearly drunk. She swept my youngest child into her arms for a playful cuddle, but then lost her footing and dropped her on the floor. Apart from shock, my daughter suffered no miuries, but we were furious. Clare was mortified, and only the arrival of ber taxi brought the incident to an end.

Another night soon after that, we got ready to go out for my husband's hirthday and were astonished when Clare appeared

sober Clare -quiet, sty, and buried in her fringe - and the drunk Clare - verhose, over-familiar, words slurred and clumsy. This was the latter. We went out oevertheless, felt sick throughout the evening and returned early.

The next afternoon I fook a deep hreath and expressed my concerns. She was mortified, and retreated into the fringe and a frozen silence. Eventually she told me that she was feeling depressed due to some recent had news, as well as her worries about her future career. Yes, she would cut down the drinking and sort herself out. The next day I found a "So sorry" card, some flowers and, ironically, a bottle of wine.

But my good inteotions backfired. All I did with my sympathetic chat was drive the drinking underground. She hid bottles in her room and regularly tippled at night -at weekends, as well as weekdays. When she recled downstairs from her room, we were never sure whether we would find her just a hit chatty, or incoherent and dropping the kitchen crockery.

When is too much, too much? Her drinking was, as far as we knew, only in the evenings; we drink wine with dinner, a bottle between us, quite often. Did we have the right to tell her not to drink at night? We had endless discussions, testing our views against those of friends and family. We had no further "serious" baby-sit-

ting incidents, though we often felt uneasy when we went out at night. But then on two

of ours and returned home tipsy. Shortly after this we noticed that she was regularly helping herself to our wine without asking - in what must have been surreptitious slurps, even as we sat next door in the evenings. We moved the wine from direct temptation, but she quickly tracked it down and helped herself. So, with some trepidation, I had to talk to her again.

There was more mortification, more During another sympathetic discussion with me she promised reform, but she didn't want to call the counselling services I had tracked down for her. Another "Sorry" card appeared, and some more flowers. We should have acted, but didn't; I was very busy at work, the kids seemed happy-wby break it all up?

A few weeks later we went to stay with friends at a remote country location, and Clare came to help. The secretive and guilty night-time drinking came with her. One evening she joined us and our friends for dinner - something of a precedent, as up till then she had always preferred to eat with the children. She appeared downstairs drunk - she was unsteady on her feet, and slurring ber words. At dinner she ate like a hird and drank like a fish, and became loud-mouthed and barely coherent. Some-

thing in me snapped - that was it. Two days later, with my children safely away on a trip with a friend, I faced her: "I'm sorry, it's over-you have to go." With a massive intake of breath, she raced out of the house into the garden, where she ran round and round like a madwoman, screaming at the top of her voice, "No, not this, No! No! No!"

Alone in the bouse in the middle of

knives, had my finger at the ready to dial 999 on the mobile phone, and waited for her to calm down and come back in.

But calming down took a further three hours of hyperventilation and crying, endless pleading - "Please, please not this, I'll do anything, anything, but not this" - and pitiful phone calls to friends and family. I finally persuaded her into a taxi in which she was ferried to our London home, where tears, more sleepless nights-mine and here. a relative had been installed to ensure sbe

did berself, and our house, no harm, She moved out after a few days and though her contract specified four weeks' notice, we gave her 10 weeks' money as a financial cushion. She went home and, to my relief, sought medical advice and counselling. But we are not off the book yet. We have had letters, postcards, farewell cards, more "Sorry" cards, a stream of "Missing you so much and love you heaps" cards for the children, plus phone calls.

Also, more scarily, we have had to fend off requests to see the children, to pick them up from school, to ice their huthday cakes - and then, in response to our reluctance, a visit, "Just to say good-bye".

Yes, we should have acted earlier, because we put our children at risk, and we consumed so much energy discussing what, or what ook to do to try to be reasonable. But the dismissal was always goiog to be painful, and because of that we felt we had to be sure of our ground.

We may sound pathetically indecisive or negligent. To others we may sound unfeeling, judgemental and unkind. Whatever your reaction, just pray you don't find yourself in the same situation -the employment rule book won't help you, either.

two years. We even enjoyed the approba- downstairs ready to baby-sit. We knew the consecutive nights she haby-sat for friends nowhere. I discreetly hid the kitchen The names in this article have been changed.

WHERE CHARLOTTE **WENT WRONG**

Gail Aspland Robinson runs Childhood Nannies, an agency based in south London.

Far too many working mothers feel held to ransom by nannies. They tiptoe around them, worried that if they criticise the nanny she may take it out on the children while they are at work.

But most professional nannies can handle criticism - you just have to say it in the nicest possible way. Good communications are critical; if you let things slide, a minor issue can become a mountain. Aim to have an informal discussion at least once a month, when the children areo't around, perhaps over dinner. Say what is working well, but also what isn't. The more you get to know your nanny, the better you can manage the relationship.

Then, if they don't respond and you still have doubts, you should go through oral and written warnings. Nannies are now more aware of their employment rights, and you have to behave in a professional way as well.

In this particular case, I feel the mother could have taken action sooner. A nanny shouldn't drink when baby-sitting and Clare should have been dismissed at that stage, or at least given a final written warning. It wasn't a "one-off"; it is suggested she drank heavily. It is no different from taking drugs. When a nanny lives in your house you have the right to comment on what they do in their own time.

After completing an NNEB course, Katie Potter has worked as a live-in nanny for two-and-a-half years.

This story sounds horrific, and Clare was lucky to keep her job for so long. OK, lots of nannies have drunken nights ont at weekends, but you don't drink on duty - which includes the

time when you are baby sitting. It was good that the parents showed an interest in Clarc's career, but I'm not sure they did enough to help her when she got depressed. They kept giving her another chance, even after she had dropped their child. She clearly kept on drinking too much. The children's well-being was in danger.

Peter Cullimore is chairman of child care at the Federation of Recruitment and **Employment Services**

The legal position is that, unless there has been "gross misconduct", you should go through the formal disciplinary procedures - an oral and then a written warning before dismissal. But with a nanny, we recommend that once the trust has broken down it is time to part company. Children are involved, so it is probably better to ask the nanny to leave immediately and give her a month's pay in lieu of notice.

FRES's standard nanny contract of employment lists theft, drunkenness. illegal drug-taking and child ahuse as reasons for summary dismissal. The parents should have taken action long before they did - I think, when the nanny dropped the child. If a nanny is drunk on your premises, you should say good-bye. Also, people with a drink problem are marvellous at concealing it; you just can't take any risks

where children are concerned. A nanny will build affection for children, but these parents made the mistake of letting her get too attached. A nanny must not become a substitute for the parents.

How to bring the etiquette of the workplace into your home

Stretched, dual-income couples who depend on 'support staff' at home may need to take their role as employers more seriously, says Roger Tropp.

Whenever the subject of parents and nannies or other eaters comes up, the emphasis is usually on making sure that you pick the right person rather than ensuring that you get along, having gone through all the effort to find them.

Yet proprietors of namey agencies, and nannies themselves, point to some common irritants. These include parents whu insist in the morning that they will be home on time, then habitually call at the end of the afternoon to say that they have been held up; lack of communication; and confusion over tasks and responsibilities.

What is curious about these complaints is that they are just the sort of thing that the par-

ents themselves would find imitating coming from a colleague or a superior in their own place of work. A large part of the problem, it seems, is that work done in the home whether child care, housekeeping, cleaning or gardening is somehow nut seen as quite the same as that done in a con-

ventional workplace. We even seem to be embarrassed about employing people in this way. As one observer put it, while people are generally proud to create a job in their husiness, when it comes to employing somebody at home there is a certain amount of guilt, or at least

discomfort. This is reflected in the fact that people talk about having "help" in the home, as opposed to "employing" somebody. This can lead to the employers skating around issues such as holidays and overtime rates in a way that they would not dream of doing at the office.

Work Family Directions, a

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT Go through an agency or act on personal recommendation. If using an agency, make sure they remain responsible for

necessary speak to past em-3 Establish the ground rules from day one. Don't leave anything unsaid, no matter how small the point may be. Employees should know exactly what they are getting chemselves into. Try to be around on the first

the people on their books.

Check all references and if

the top of its child care check-

day. This will put your mind at rest. But don't watch your

consultancy specialising in workplace issues, puts understanding and willingness to take on the responsibilities of being an employer almost at

new employee like a hawk, as this will make him/her behave unnaturally.

5 Determine whether you are going to be addressed by your first name or more formally, by your title.

6 it is important not to be too matey, even though you may like your employee. And don't be too controlling or distant. The 'Upstairs, Downstairs' days are long gone, and your employee is not just a servant. just treat him/her as a professional, and be open to their ideas or suggestions. 7 Try leaving little lists of things

list, along with willingness "to

devote time and effort to set-

ong up and maintaining a re-

Liz Bargh, the organis-

lationship with my carer".

that need to be done. That way, your employee will be achieving the objectives you

And especially for narmies: I Organise at least two interviews, one for yourself and one for the children, to see whether they establish any immediate bond with your potential employee.

2 Work out who will discipline the children if you are both around. Then always back one 3 Always give your nanny a con-

tract, which states the length

responsibilities, such as paying

income tax and National In-

surance contributions, people

who take on domestic workers

of his/her working week. And don't eat into an employee's free time.

4 Become a confidant - albeit at a distance. This will establish a degree of warmth, and show you are interested in your narmy as a person. Always ask how her day went, and whether the children have done anything new.

5 Keep a joint diary with your nanny. This will minimise the risk of clashing with those extra baby-sitting duties.

Compiled by Nicole Yeash with the help of Kensington Nonnies

that in addition to legal employees as if they were in a regular workplace, set out formal terms and conditions, encourage dialogue, even have regular performance reviews.

Other commentators point

well being businesslike in the office, but in that situation you are usually not working in somebody's home, and certainly not staying there at night. And although observing how colleagues behave towards each other can provide good or bad examples at work, you rarely get the opportunity to observe such models at home. One working woman is

adamant that it is essential to avoid thinking that you can be friends with the people you employ, either to look after your children or to clean the house. She expects those in the role just to get on with the job. This may be taking things a little far - the experts' advice is to put relationships on a sounder footing, not necessarily to consign them to the deep freeze.

trouble instigating such for-

mal arrangements in their own

homes. After all, it is all very

tweeo increasingly over- next week

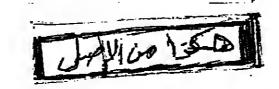
out that many people have stretched, dual-career couples and what many term their "support staff" will depend on their bringing a few more of their workmanlike attitudes home with them.

> Just as it is increasingly in vogue to talk of employees taking their interests and values to work with them, so should they bring some of what they learn in their jobs to their dealings with those who work for them at home.

As one parent said, it is simply a case of treating nannies and other "helpers" as you would want to be treated vourself

Tomorrow: A better time in bed? It's all in the mind

Fruitful relationships be- Dilemmas will return



ation's chief executive, explains long term need to treat their

Tom Hudson

Tom Hudson, teacher and artist: born Horden, Co Durham 3 july 1922; married 1949 Moira Marshall (one son. one daughter: marriage dissolved 1957), 1968 Sally Smith (one son); died Bristol 27 December 1997.

It is difficult now, with the whole world supposedly looking to British art for a lead, to imagine the complacent parochialism of art education, and, by extensiun, the whole of the British art world, 50 years ago. Abstract Expressionism was bubbling up in New York, but drawing from classical casts was still one of the primary modes of instruction in British art schools. Heraldry was still on

Tom Hudson was one of a handful of individuals whn smashed that cosily academic world for ever, letting in a flood of international Influences, breaking down the barriers between art and design and creating a climate in which everything from beavy industrial British art schools were acclaimed as the best in the world. A stocky, black-bearded son of the Durham coalfield, an improvisatory socialist visionary with a touch of the streetfighter, he had a remarkable gift for inspiring and energising others.

Raised in a working-class environment with practically no exposure to art of any kind, he nonetheless acquired artistic amhitions at an early age. After active service in the Far East, he was exposed to the European avant-garde during periods of leave in Paris, and returned to disrupted studies at Sunderland School of Art with a feeling that he must Do Something. During a teaching year at King's College, Newcastle, and a period at the Courtauld Institute, Lundon's grand bastion of academic art history, he began to evolve his own educational ideas, influenced by Herbert Read's

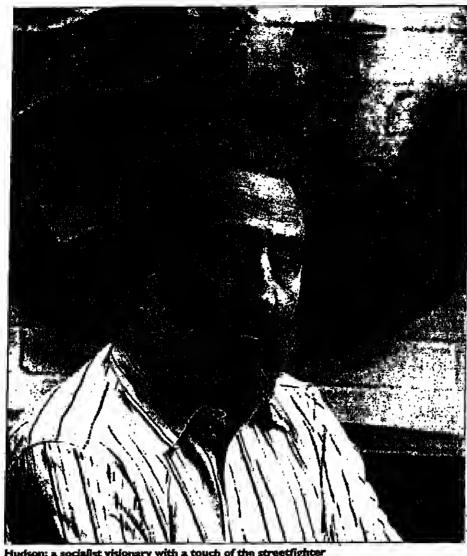
Art and the assemblage-based strategies of the Constructivist and de Still movements. In 1951, through Anthony Blunt's recommendation, he gained his first teaching post, at Lowestoft, a tiny provincial backwater.

His research into child art brought him into contact with Victor Pasmore, who had created a Bauhaus-inspired basic course at Newcastle, From 1954 he, Pasmore and Harry Thubron led a series of summer schools for teachers at Scarborough, where the principles of what became known as Basic Design - the stripping back of the students' preconveived ideas through exercises in form, space and colour - were evolved. What had previously been isolated developments cohered with Herbert Read's encouragement into a movement whereby a nucleus of trained teachers would convert the mass to modernist teaching methods.

In 1957 Hudson joined Thubron at Leeds, where their farreaching experiments involving techniques to a philosophy af the irrational introduced by the painter Alan Davie became the inspiration for young teachers all over the country. Soon the London-based educational establishment was heating a path to their door.

Many of their ideas and recommendations were absorbed by the Coldstream Committee of 1961, which introduced diplomas, radically modernising and academicising the art schnols, and the Summerson Council which brought in full-

blown degrees in 1968. Impatient with Leeds's exclusively fine-art orientation, Hudson became Head of Foundation Studies at Leicester, and with the aid of dynamic young artists like Michael Sandle and Terry Setch, set about creating a totally integrated system of art and design education. A revelatory exhibition of students' work, "The Visual Adventure", toured radical programmes anywhere,



Museum of Modern Art in New York in 1963. Hudson was invited to lecture all over the world, becoming a consultant to Unesco and adviser oo art education to the Brazilian government.

Had be hided his time, one of the great London colleges might have fallen into his hands. But Hudson was more interested in his own utopias than other people's career structures. In 1964, he moved his entire staff and the pick of his students to Cardiff, where he was appointed Director of Studies with almost unlimited powers and budget. In its day, Cardiff had probably the most

to the Royal Festival Hall and the attracting the attention of teachers from all over the world.

> By the mid-Seventies, the perceived didacticism of Basic Design (a term Hudson himself never used) had become unfashionable. In most colleges, a structureless system of do-yourown-thing prevailed. When his academic freedoms were curtailed in a bureaucratic shakeup at Cardiff, Hudson fled to Vancouver with the aim of creating another ground-breaking institution. The position of Dean of Instruction, however, proved to he largely administrative, and his gritty rigour did not hlend well with laid-back West Coast hedonism.

Although he exhibited his

own sculpture to some acclaim. Hudson's natural medium was

teaching. He genuinely believed that, if only ordinary people could be made to understand the great artistic, scientific and intellectual achievements of the 20th century, the world's problems would be solved. To this end, while in his seventies, he made a number of television series designed to make the excitement of a creative education and his own highly personal interpretations of the modern art movements available to the man in the street. These won many of the highest awards available to such programmes in North America.

Helen Kirkpatrick Milbank

Helen Kirkpatrick, journalist: born Rochester, New York 18 October 1909; married 1954 Robbins Milbank (died 1985); died Williamsburg, Virginia 29 December 1997.,

Helen Kirkpatrick, one of the first and best American war correspondents in the Second World War, was always at the forefront of the action.

She encountered little of the hostility experienced by other American women reporters in the war, her appearance as well as her expertise commanding respect. Having inherited the features of her Scottish ancestors, she was a distinguished-looking woman, with high cheek bones and bright blue eyes. As a fellow correspondent remarked, she was tall enough to overlook

By the time the other American war correspondents arrived in Britain, in the wake of Pearl Harbor, Kirkpatrick had five years' experience of Europe. At the age of 30, she knew most of the leaders of Britain and France, and they respected her.

Kirkpatrick had an outstanding academic record at Smith College, one of America'a leading female universities, and later at the University of Geneva. She worked in France as a stringer for the New York Herald Tribune and in 1937 came to England as a freelance journalist, temporably acting as the diplomatic correspondent of the Sunday Times.

Together with Victor Gordon-Lennox, of the Daily Telegraph, with whom she was on close terms, and with Graham Hntton of the Economist, she started a weekly newsletter, the Whitehall News, which waged a strong campaign against the policy of appeasing the dictators. In the House of Commons. it was regularly read by Winston Churchill and Anthony Eden. moured Division. In the subse-The King of Sweden was an-

moonlighters, Kirkpatrick and her secretary were the only full-time members of the staff. Of the Munich Pact she wrote. "This truce may well induce rather than prevent war." She expanded her views in two books, This Terrible Peace (1938) and Under the British Umbrella

As war approached Kirkpatrick was engaged to the London office of the Chicago Daily News, Frank Knox's liberal rival of Colonel Robert Mc-Cormick's isolationist Chicago Tribune. As her first assignment she suggested she should interview the Duke of Windson. Her male colleagues scoffed at the idea, knowing that the former king did not give interviews. But Kirkpatrick knew the people with whom he was staying in England and went to see them. The Duke explained that he had sworn not to give any interviews, but he saw no reason why he should not interview her. Thus her first contribution to the Chicago Daily News was the Dake of Windsor's interview of Helen Kirkpatrick.

Peter Knox, who was to become Roosevelt's Secretary of the Navy, explained to her, "We don't have women on the staff." She told him, "I can't change my sex. But you can change your policy." Knox did not change his policy. He simply made an exception for her.

She fearlessly reported the London Blitz and in 1943 she went to Algiers and spent six months covering the North African campaign, including the surrender of the Italian fleet at Malta, After D-Day the Free French requested her presence and she became the first correspondent assigned to the headquarters of the native forces operating inside France.

She entered Paris on 25 August 1944 riding in a tank of General Leclerc's 2nd Arquent Te Deum which General

Jack Marshall

other subscriber. As the men de Gaulle attended in Notre working on the newsletter were Dame Cathedral she, who was the next tallest person present after de Gaulle, had to throw herself on to the floor, as he did, when snipers began shooting at

She went to Hitler's famous mountain retreat, "Eagle's Nest", above Berchtesgaden in Bavaria, where she swiped a frving pan from the Führer's latchen to cook field rations. After the war she covered the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. As a roving correspondent for the New York Post she was one of the first to interview Jawaharlal Nehru, the prime minister of newly independent India.

Kirkpatrick's next post was as information officer for the Marshall Plan mission in Paris in the mid 1940s. Later she moved to Washington to become the Public Affairs Officer for the Western European Division of the State Department. I was then the BBC news correspondent in Washington and found her a wise and reliable source. One day, just before my radio circuit to London, it was announced that the banker Winthrop Aldrich would be the next American Ambassador to London. I rang Helen Kirkpatrick urgently. "You must know Aldrich. Can you give me in one sentence what kind of a man he is?" Without hesitation she replied, "A closed mind and an open fly." In those days that kind of remark was not acceptable on the BBC news.

Kirkpatrick next returned to academic life as the secretary to the President of Smith College and in 1954 she married Robbins Milbank, one of the trustees of Smith, a member of a prominent New England family. The Milbanks maintained homes in New Hampshire and California. She worked as a civic leader in both states. After ber husband's death she settled in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she died peacefully, just after having her hair trimmed.

... Leonard Mial

Vanda Gréville

Vanda MacEwan (Vanda Vangen), actress: born London 10 January 1908; married 1930 Edmond daughter; marriage dissolved); died Westgate on Sea, Kent 26 December 1997.

In René Clair's classic filmmusical comedy Le Million (1931), Vanda Gréville was Vanda, the American vamp flirting with René Lefèvre's garret artist. This slender blonde onportunist is none too pleased to discover he is penniless hut eagerly joins the search for his stolen jacket which carries a winning lottery ticket.

This early role would remain the highlight of Greville's career. It had been preceded by her other proudest achievement, playing a leading role in Abel Gance's multilingual La Fin du Monde (1930).

Born Vanda MacEwan to a

work as an extra on an Alfred Hitchcock film. While in Paris at a finishing school, she was spotted by Gance and screen-tested.

Speaking oo French, she auditioned by reciting "He Fell Among Thieves" with such emotion that Gance (who understood no English) was reduced to tears. He barred his prim young discovery from taking part in the orgy scenes of La Fin du Monde when mankind. threatened with destruction by a comet, has a last wild fling. She was billed as Vanda Vangen, taking her mother's maiden name, and played in the English- and German-speaking versions of the film.

While seeking a career in British films (and impersonating Greta Garbo in a promotional short) she fell wildly in love with and married a half-

Scottish father and Norwegian English avant-garde filmmother, she had wanted to be maker called Edmond Gréville. an actress from childhood and He had acted in René Clair's skipped school in Fulham to Sous les Toits de Paris (1930) and when he was casting Le Million.

> Gréville himself started writing and directing feature films. and starred his wife in Le Train who has suddenly lost her voice. In Britain she co-starred as a French woman opposite Arthur Wontner in the drama A Gentleman of Paris (1931) hut gained only a small role as a barmaid in Ebb Tide (1932). She found better opportunities in France, often playing English characters as in L'Or dans la Rue (1934) and Le Train d'Amour (1935), and became a society figure with a circle of friends that included Mrs Wallis Simpson.

Vanda Gréville's last film appearance was in 1939, in her husband's highly topical drama Menaces. She played an American, one of several foreigners

living in a hotel in the Latin Quarter of Paris as the Second World War erupts.

Vanda herself caught one of introduced his new wife to Clair the last trains to England before played for Burnley 1936-48 the fall of France, clutching only a Utrillo painting and a vast supply of her favourite face cream, while Edmond spent the war des Suicidés (1931) as a singer hiding in Cannes. In London, she did propaganda work for General de Gaulle, broadcasting to France and working on schemes to bring out prominent Frenchmen left behind. She would have liked to parachute into France as a special agent, but her English accent and wellknown looks ruled this out.

Returning to France after the war, she worked for Unesco and as a journalist, never tesuming her acting career. She came back to England when her parents' health failed and, divorced from her husband, lived quietly in Kent from the mid-

--- Allen Eyles

Lancashire 29 May 1917; maged Rochdale 1958-60, Blackburn Rovers 1960-67, Sheffield Wednesday 1968-69, Bury 1969; married; died

Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Before a combination of Jack Walker's millions and the inspirational guidance of Kenny Dalglish brought fame and success to Blackburn Rovers in

1995, only one man since the Second World War had given the homely football club from the Lancashire textile town the faintest whiff of championship giory. His name was Jack Marshall and, whereas those modern messiahs had untold financial resources at their disposal, three decades earlier "Jolly Jack" was forced to watch gusto, disregarding reputations do-and-mend side to the sum-

mit of England's premier league. "Marshall's Misfits" sat proudly, albeit briefly, atop the Douglas, with the result that old First Division on Boxing Rovers became one of the most Day 1963, their presence on that entertaining sides in the land. lofty pinnacle a tribute to the manager who had constructed an attractive, attacking team, substantially from erstwhile un-

considered talents. It couldn't last and Rovers were overhauled subsequently by the big-city brigade from Liverpool and Manchester. The unavoidable springtime sale of their star centre-forward Fred Pickering to Everton, one of Blackburn's chief rivals, proved the final nail in that season's ti-tirement back at Blackburn as tle aspirations, all the more club physiotherapist. poignantly since Pickering had been converted by Marshall from a plodding reserve fullback, the player's rise to prominence thus personifying his when "the team that Jack built" boss's shoestring shrewdness.

Thereafter, with seeming inevitability as the fortunes of is being discussed. most small-town clubs began to

nosedive following the abolition of the players' maximum wage limit, Rovers declined during the remainder of Marshall's Ewood Park reign and an exhilarating period of their history was over.

Jack Marshall had entered

professional football as a player at Burnley in 1936 and emerged as a capable full-back before injury forced his premature retirement in 1948. He became a coach, serving Bury and Stoke City before joining Sheffield Wednesday in 1954 and assisting the national boss, Walter Winterbottom, with the

England "B" team. In 1958 Marshall stepped up to management, experiencing relegation from the Third Division with Rochdale in his first season, but performed impressively enough to take charge of the top-flight Blackburn, a club riven by internal strife, in 1960. He embarked on a sorely needed team-rebuilding job with every penny as he led a make- and experimenting boldly while enjoying admirable support from the classy stalwarts Ronnie Clayton and Bryan

> However, the slide that followed the euphoria of 1963/64 led to demotion in 1966 and Marshall's resignation in 1967. Later that year he was appointed assistant boss of Sheffield Wednesday, shifting to the manager's seat in 1968. He worked hard at Hillsborough but left after a disappointing 1968/69, later taking over at Bury for a brief spell before spending the decade leading up to his 1979 re-

It was fitting that Marshall should finish his footballing days at Ewood Park. As Rovers fans with long memories will confirm. crops up in conversation, it is not always the Walker version which

-- Ivan Ponting

Anthea Joseph

Gréville: escaped from France with Utrillo and face cream

Anthea Joseph, publicist: born combination of legend and presence on the club door placed breaking incident. That friend-London 27 October 1940; died friend to many of the biggest her in an ideal position to meet Friston, Suffolk 27 December

When the unknown Bob Dylan arrived in Britain for the first time, it is sometimes said that his only guide was a piece of paper from Pete Seegar bearing The story is probably apocryphal but it illustrates the pivotal role in the music business gant PR specialist-come-minder. training for her future career.

Joseph was one of those es-

folk boom of the Sixties and the

The daughter of socialist parents - her mother, Elizabeth Young, had a fair claim to be considered Britain's first film critic, at the Daily Worker, while her father was Noel Joseph of the words, "Troubadour Folk the News Chronicle - Anthea Club, London, ask for Anthea". grew up in Suffolk and was inexplicably given a convent education. Reconciling the on her of many others, includconflicting values of hame and of Anthea Joseph, the tall, ele-school was, she said, invaluable

She found her way to the sential functionaries without Trouhadour Folk Club in the whom the music business would mid-Fifties via a chance en-

names who emerged from the the young lions of the Sixties folk world, like Bert Jansch and Davy folk rock vogue of the Seventies. Graham. Among them were some American singer/songwriters who were to become household names and she not infrequently found berself supplying emergency accommodation to these itinerants. While tales of the young Dylan sleeping on her floor would seem to he duhious, the dependence ing Paul Simon and Tom Pax-

A friendship with Dylan, however, did begin at the Troubadour. In the 1965 tour documentary Don't Look Back, it is find it impossible to operate. counter with a trio of buskers Anthea Joseph's dramatically Stories accrued round her and that included Redd Sullivan. anxious face Dylan is seen reshe became an improbable. Her sometimes intimidating assuring after a hotel glass- house they shared in Suffolk. the first time as a BBC presen-

ton, appears well established.

when, leaving a Rolling Stones party that had become tedious. Joseph and Dylan spent four hours walking the rainswept London streets. She joined Joe Boyd's Witch-

Seasons arganisation in 1968, toured America with Fairport Convention in the early Seventies, worked for a while with the ICA and for CBS artists' relations (1976-86), and eventually settled into an appropriate niche with Maurice Oberstein, chairman of Polygram records. In 1991, she reduced this comlook after her ailing mother, but was away in London when her

She more or less gave up the ship continued into the Nineties music business and devoted berself to restoring the house, making only occasional forays into her old world. At the skiffle reunion at London's 100 Club and Fairport Convention's Snape Maltings gig in 1997, she appeared happy and relaxed but was concealing both physical and depressive illness as earlier years of overwork and later

rural isolation took their toll. Most people in the music business have an Anthea story and she encouraged this, volubly indulging her friend Quentin Crisp's practice of not spoiling mitment to a part-time job to a good story for a ha'porth of truth. Curiously it is the more improbable tales that are best Keith. "A guitar player from mother had a heart attack and attested. Wally Whyton used to England. You must know inadvertently set fire to the tell how, visiting Nashville for Anthea."



Joseph: improbable tales Photograph; David Sandison

ter, he heard a hrilliant American banjo picker he had never met or heard before. Introducing himself as a guitarist. Whyton said he was from England. "Oh," said the banjo picker, Bill

publisher and editor, 1862; Viscount

was occupied by its first prime min- : ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS ister tenant, David Lloyd-George,

1921; in New York, seven floors of the Empire State Building caught fire, 1963. Today is the Feast Day of St Adrian of Canterbury. St Apollinaris the Apologist, St E bard, St Gudula, St Lucian of Beauvais, St Pega, St Severious of Nocioum Repense, St

DEATHS

GRANGER: Gladys Emma, peacefully of 5 January 1993, aged 90 years. Much-lowed mother of Daphine and Christopher, granny of Brian, Roger, Damaris, Rouran, Rachel and Damail. Funeral service at St Luk's Church. Hickling, on Tuesday 13 January at 12.15pm, followed by cremation at Loughborough Crematorium. Further enquiries, J.W. Hazelwood & Son, telephone 01664 812233.

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES**

& DEATHS

Birthdays Miss Shirley Bassey, singer, 61; Mr David Bowie, singer and actor, 51; Mr Stuart Cameron, former chairman, Gallaher Ltd. 74; Mr Phil Hall. Editor, News of the World, 43; Lord Hardie QC, Lord Advocate, 51; Professor Stephen Hawking, math-ematician, 56; Lord Hollenden, For BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS. former chairman, L & R. Morley, 84; Mr. Andrew Hunter MP, 55; The

Right Rev Edward Knapp-Fisher, Honorary Assistant Bishop, Dio-cese of Chichester, 83; Professor Sir Robert May, zoologist and ecologist, 61; Air Commodore Joan Metcalfe, former Director of RAF Nursing Services. 75; Mr Ron Moody, actor, 74; Mr Kenneth Purchase MP, 59; Miss Imelda Read, MEP, 59; Professor Brian Reddaway, economic consultant in the World Bank, 85; Professor

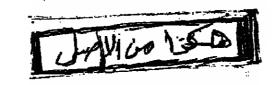
Charles Tombinson, Emeritus Professor of English, Bristol University, 7t; Miss Galina Ulanova, former prima ballerina, 88; Professor Alan Wilson, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds

Births: William Wilkie Collins, novclist, 1824; Frank Nelson Doubleday,

Craigavon (James Craig), Ulster statesman, 1871; Elvis Presley, rock singer, 1935. Deaths: Galileo Galilei, astronomer, 1642; Paul Verlaine, poet, 1895; Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, first Baron Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scours, 1941; Richard Tauber, tenor, 1948; Chou En-lai, Chinese teader, 1976. On this day: Chequers Court

Severinus of Septempeda, Si Thorfine and St Wulam.

Changing of the Gustrd
The Household Cavelry Mounted Regimen
mosals the Queen's Life Gustrd at Horse Gustrd
Lians.



A truth universally acknowledged? Well, not quite, dear reader



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR, COLIN HUGHES, ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE. CANARY WHITE LONDON H4 5DL TELEPHONE: 0171 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171:345,2455

Who opened which book with the following words?" It is a truth universally acknowledged, that every man in possession of a fortune, must be in want of a wife." Easy. So try this more problematic poser. Who opened which book with these words? "The alarm went off in the middle of her dream. She was dreaming she was dancing, not the twist or jiving - these were beginning to be considered old-fashioned at the club - but something more old-fashioned still: she was gliding to music that seemed to come out of the clouds, for there was no orchestra that she could see and no roof to the ballroom"? And here is the real clincher. The first one is unquestionably a classic, and the second one is certainly not. Why?

Just to put you out of your misery, the second quotation is from The Bonny Dawn, one of the more recent of Catherine Cookson's bestselling romances; the first, as everyone knows, is the opening sentence of Pride and Prejudice, by Jane Austen. Or does everyone know? Who is

more widely read - the bespectacled Tyneside Dame, or fiction's most elegant ironist? Cookson's tale is compellingly told, with great verve, sensitivity, hriskly believable dialogue, a keen sense of plot and swiftly flowing prose. Whatever it is, it's not rubbish. Many ostensibly classier and more carnestly feted scribblers wish they could pull it off like her. It's good - and il's recent -- but (so prolific is the Cookson word machine) it wasn't even one of the nine Cookson novels to be among the 10 fiction titles most borrowed from

British libraries last year. Now, we all know that mere popularity is not enough to merit elevation to the status of "classic" novel. But we are very much less clear about what separates The Bonny Dawn from Pride and Prejudice. After all, Cookson's are great stories, well told. They seethe with universal passions and grapple with hefty social and emotional truths. Their language is neither bril-liant, nor startlingly original, but neither is it thin, stilting, insubstantial or even

cliched (in the way that, say, Jeffrey Archer's prose is). If they didn't succeed in some large measure, there is no way they would be so devotedly read by such a wide swathe of (mostly female) humanity.

So what is a classic? The old conundrum arises again because Dent, the publisher, has decided to throw together its own Everyman list of 250 classics and despatch a full set to schools. Good promo, you might say, and you'd be right. Because every list of classics includes and excludes in ways that are inevitably controversial, and controversy generates publicity. In this case many obvious "classics" have been excluded, and many questionable titles included, probably for copyright reasons. And then there is the occasional politically correct inanity: presumably the publisher wanted to include the Old Testament for cultural and literary reasons. and therefore felt it essential m throw in Sacred Hindu Texts and a translation of The Quran. Then again, entire ocuvres of poetry are quite properly included -

Coleridge, Marvell, Donne -- but not a mention of some of the greatest and most important poems in our language: The Prelude and In Memorium are bizarrely absent. But what the heck; isn't the search for exceptions and omissions half the fun, particularly since none of us are really sure what a classic is, we just know one when we see il?

Well, actually, you can say one or two things that make it quite a bit easier to identify a classic. First, it has to be a book which you can read once, and then return to and find a greater or at least different understanding. It is, in other words, a different book each time you read il - and therefore, by extension, it is a different book for every reader. Second (utterly Leavisite, this one) it has to form part of a cultural tradition -either in creating or synthesising a new way of seeing, or in handing down a legacy. On these grounds, Catherine Cookson could, at least in theory, join the pantheon of classic writers -- but it's a pretty fair guess she won't. Equally, nor will many writers of so-called "modern" classics (Dent include Midnight's Children, for example: well, surely that remains lo be seen).

But when all's said, does it matter a whit? This is the anti-Leavis hit: no, it doesn't. The argument over what is and isn't classic is as ultimately meaningless as it is perennially entertaining. Many people will be able to identify books that are far more important to them than the classic texts. Some teachers have grumpily responded by arguing that they don't need a lot of boring old books, when they are crying out for more modern texts that young people actually want to read. Frankly, such leachers should be grateful for what they get, and encourage a few more of their pupils to experiment with the huge range of books Dent are putting on offer. For the rest - offer them something else. The important thing is that they read. Like the rest of us, in the end they will make up their own minds about what

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LETTERS

Cannabis trials

Sir: Dr Bill O'Neill of the British Medical Association predicts that cannabis derivatives will be available legally for medical use within a few years. ("Straw's challenge over cannabis drugs", 5 January). This would return us to the position before the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, when doctors were allowed to prescribe cannabis, most often in tincture form.

On Saturday on BBC radio the Home Secretary said there was nothing to stop those who believe cannabis has therapeutic value from applying for a Home Office licence to test the drug. There are currently three licences allowing medical research with cunnahis,

However, to satisfy the Government of the efficacy of cannabis, large-scale trials are needed using a controlled dose of the drug, and this cannot be done without the involvement of the pharmaceutical companies, who have been reluctant to touch cannabis because it is in schedule I of the 1971 Act - a category of controlled drugs with allegedly no therapeutic value.

We face a chicken-and-egg situation: the Government will not move cannabis from schedule 1 to schedule 2 ta prescribable drug with therapeutic value) until fi can be shown to have a medical use. And this cannot be demonstrated to the Government's satisfaction without large-scale trials.

After reviewing the evidence - much of it admittedly small-scale or anecdotal - the BMA recognises that cannabis may have therapeutic uses for people suffering from conditions such as multiple sclerosis. The Government should now facilitate the large-scale trials that are needed. GORDON PRENTICE MP

(Pendle Lub) House of Commons

Sir: In the 1960s, when I was in hed with flu, four of my sixthform pupils arrived to ask how I was. They put four large, beautifully rolled joints on my bedside table and wished me well.

A day passed before I could face smoking unything, but when I did my depression eased at once, and in two days I was up. I shall always admire those hows for their daring altruism. and I am sure they are not nowadays marching their sons to the police station. MAURICE HILL Alicame, Spain



After devolution

Sir: Next week Parliament will take the second reading of the Scotland Bill setting up a Scottish parliament. The Bill itself seems to be carefully and sensibly drafted. But so far no attention seems to have been paid to the workings of the British Parliament after devolution.

How will English legislation be handled by English MPs to give it the same treatment as Scottish devolved legislation? Will the House of Lords be by-passed, as for Scottish devolved legislation? What machinery will be set up to ensure an acceptable allocation of the Consolidated Fund hetween England and Scotland? (The Scottish parliament will

have no standing in that.) Before MPs are asked to vote on the Scotland Bill they surely have the right to know. and the duty to find out, what the consequences will be for the government of the country as

In its haste to get its Bill through the Government has chosen to ignore these issues. They are fundamental for the stability and harmony of British government in the future and must be dealt with now. Sir GERALD ELLIOT

Garden for Diana

Sir: If the principle of a gardco to commemorate Diana. Princess of Wales, at Kensington Palace is agreed upon (report, 30 December), we should all he spared a design that emerges from behind closed doors, and not least because of the hype that would accompany its public "launch". Instead, unless the family specifically do not want this to be the case, a popular design should be allowed to evolve through the slower process of a relaxed and open ideas com-

petition. There can still be a role for those working hehind the London WI

scenes. They and their experts can help set the competition parameters, they can help assess the entries and they can contribute to the garden's detailed design development, and finally they can take responsibility for the design's implementation and

maintenance.

Inconvenient and awkward competitions may sometimes be but, in the absence of a clear and acceptable alternative proposal, for example to restore the original, perhaps dull, William and Mary box garden, selecting and developing a design in open competition will inject new and popular life into our valuable tradition of garden and

landscape design. Such an open process need not lead to a design of lesser quality simply by virtue of being popular, and would create a positive outlet for the creative expression of the feelings of

JOHN SOMERVILLE-LARGE

Cars of the future

Sir: Christopher Padley's scepticism regarding hydrogen as a fuel for cars of the future (Letters, 5 January) should not go unchallenged.

In the short to medium term, hybrid vehicles will provide a partial answer to the problems of congestion and pollution. In the longer term hydrogen power must be the answer. At present, safe transportation of this fuel is a problem but there are hopeful signs that research is producing answers. Metal hydrides which can fix

hydrogen are one solution. However, the most promising storage technology is being pioneered by the Northern University at Boston, Massachusetts. The claim is that a nanofibre graphite cartridge can safely store huge amounts of hydrogen at a pressure of 40 atmospheres. The gas is released by gradually reducing the pressure. One cartridge is said to be able to fuel a car for 5,000 miles and a cartridge could

be reused up to five times (New Scientist, 21/28 December 1996).

Considerable resource is being channelled into the development of photovoltaic cells. As their efficiency increases and unil cost is reduced, they will be the logical source of electricity to produce hydrogen via electrolysis. Car manufacturers are right to recognise that there are glittering prizes to be won in the race for zero emission cars at all points along the energy chain. Professor PETER F SMITH. Chairman, Environment and

Planning Committee Royal Institute of British Architects London W1

Sir: On one page of The Independent of 5 January we read that the Government is refusing to support a Private Member's Bill to reduce road traffic levels, and on another we read that fare rises above inflation are being applied to a London Underground

system which is falling apart. Tony Blair once said: "We

Sir: The anti-smoking law David Usborne calls "radical" ("California clears the air", 1 January), and compares with the Prohibition era, is in fact supported by a large majority of the population here, according to all the polls.

Tobacco bans

The last time California passed such a law was in 1994, when smoking in restaurants and workplaces was prohibited. At the time, pro-tobacco forces predicted Domesday for the state, and the restaurant business in particular. The fact is that now the state's economy is booming and restaurants are packed.

People will get used to the smoking ban in bars and clubs. They will go outside to light up, just as they do now when working or dining. And the odds are that ultimately, as the polls have shown with restaurants, even the majority of smokers will be glad the law was passed. PAUL COOPERSMITH Inverness, California

Sir: Never mind cannahis. There's a much more important issue. The number of young women who smoke tobacco is

truly depressing. The most dispiriting aspect of being in any puh or club is having to watch so many prelty girls subjecting themselves to this most protracted method of self-mutilation. It isn'l clever, it isn't sophisticated and it most certainly isn't sexy.

It's time for men to speak up and declare that we'd rather not share our lives with a living. hreathing ashtray, no matter what other charms she may possess. Male celebrities could be leading the way. Unless we start becoming more vociferous, the fashion for smoking among women will never be broken.

PHIL SMITH Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir: George Gömöri (letter, 3 January) cites James I as an early example of a "thinking person" who was virulently anti-smoking. That monarch was also convinced that the country was in danger of being swept away on a tide of witchcraft, and was red-hot on discovering and burning alleged practitioners. It is this aspect of his thinking that lives on in the fulminations of those ever cager to seek out and destroy any social behaviour which they have deemed "foul"? **DON HOWE**

The Princess Diana Memorial Balloon, and other good uses for a lot of hot air



KINGTON

The skies are becoming just as crowded with round-the-world halloonists as Mount Everest is with climbing expeditions. So for those who can't tell one shiny balloon attempt from another, here is a complete rundown of all those expeditions at present hoping to achieve the first non-stop but air balloon trip round the world.

Chris Evans Takeover Group Basically, this is just an altempl to get there before Richard Branson does, but Chris Evans aims to make it a really fun. really wacky, really off-the-wall attempt to fly round the world, with lots of guests, lots of gags, lots of stunts, lots of video inserts and hopefully lots of hilarious fatalities. The balloon

will be bright orange and Chris will be hroudcasting all his normal shows from on board.

Michael Palin "Round The

Top" TV Series Balloon You thought there was no new way left for Michael Palin to go round the world? Wrong! 30,000ft up, that's how. What's amazing, as usual, is that he will be completely alone in the balloon and yet will come back with hours of perfectly shot, perfectly focused film. How do they do it? And how many new and interesting peo-

Tory Party Single Currency Balloon Lord Howe, Chris Patten and

ple will be "accidentally" meet

up there?

many of the great and good (old and stubborn) of the Tory party are determined to fly the flag for Europe and against William Hague by getting in a basket together and taking off round the world. As they don't know where they will land, they are taking £3,000 in 20 different currencies with them, which can also be used as ballast. "I wouldn't be surprised if 'Throw out £50 in Hungarian small change!' didn't become a new music half calchphrase!" says Lord

The Two Fat Ladies Balloon The first cookery programme to go round the world in a balloon with a side-car, The Two Fat Ladies Balloon will descend here and there, and cause consternation as two fat ladies disgorge themselves from the gondola and tell the locals they're cooking it all wrong. This will be the largest balloon going round the world, as it will be carrying so much extra bulk. (Mostly flour, bulter and olive oil.)

The Princess Diana Memorial Balloon.

Earl Spencer has announced that in response to zillions of requests, he has decided in Diana's memory to send a balloon shaped like a temple round the world so that people of all nations can worship her name as she passes. The balloon will not be manned, but people can throw in flowers as il passes, preferably non-rotting. Before take-off. you may visit the site but only be able to see the balloon from half a mile away. Phone Earl Spencer for more details.

The Start The Week Balloon Melvyn Bragg is hoping to make a serious attempt to discover if, by taking a group of thinkers round the world, you can talk your way into discovering the origins of everything before you have come back. The experts in the balloon will include a geneticist, a leading novelist, a man who is giving a lecture at the Royal Geographical Society this Wednesday, and a rather pretty girl from one of the newspapers, who will be about the balloon and de-

thrown out if things get rough.

must not demonise the car." So

I suppose we shouldn't be sur-

prised that his government is

burying its head in the sand over

the balance between public and

private transport. Regularly we

see the PM and senior ministers

gliding short distances around

central London in big black cars.

Would it not he a good idea for

Tony Blair to surprise us one day

by walking or catching a bus

from Downing Street to the

Sir: The Snowdonia National

Park authority's proposals to

limit private car traffic in the

park make great sense (report,

6 January). The proposals in-

clude provision of public trans-

port, so how can these plans can

he reconciled with the author;

ity's opposition to the recon-

struction of the erstwhile Welsh

Highland Railway where its

route passes through the park?

G GREEN

London N10

Houses of Parliament?

NICHOLAS MURRAY

Presteigne. Powys

The Royal Opera House Balloon

While Covent Garden is closed and being refurbished, low budget productions will be toured from this halloon. Unfortunately, the cost of installing all the governors, VIPs, corporate hospitality, etc means that it is already horrendously over-hudget. Perhaps they will just take a lieder recital on tour after all.

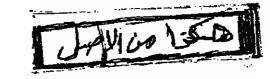
The Spin Doctor Balloon

Built in the shape of a Dome, this structure will take 10 spin doctors round the world, who inlend to land everywhere there is adverse comment

mand that the record be put straight. The fact that I have already had two pained phone calls from Peter Mandelson since I started writing this paragraph shows how serious they are.

Liverpool

Lord Lichfield and the Mosl Beautiful Girls in The World Nice to see this veleran lot in action again. Responsible for some of the most popular garage calendars of recent years, they aim to produce the ultimate - a series of photographs taken at altitudes too high for champagne to be safely air-lifted. "We may be reduced to Chaleau Margaux," quips the light-hearted Lord. "See you again in 12



21/COMMENT

A good time not to say 'I told you so ...'



RUPERT CORNWELL EUROPEAN **IMMIGRATION**

A basic rule of smugness is, try not to show it too much. So Tony Blair, one imagines, will nobly resist the temptation to say "We told you so," when he meets the visiting EU Commission President Jacques Santer today to examine, inter alia, the mess that is the Schengen agreement. The latest crisis for a border-free Europe began with the arrival in Italy last week of illegal boatloads of asylum-seeking Kurdish refugees from Turkey. The sympathetic response from Rome panicked the Germans who fear (almost certainly rightly) that if they are allowed to stay, the bulk of the 1,200 Kurds will head straight to join their half million compatriots who already live north of the Alps. But the real question is whether Schengen can survive; whether the concept of a Europe where, once inside, anyone can go where he likes without check or hindrance is feasible. In 1995, when the pact became operational, Britain said it wasn't and refused to join. Without heing too smug about it, we were right. And for the right reasons.

Schengen was basically a trade-off, in furtherance of the European ideal of free movement of people across national frontiers within its collective territory. The old border controls would go, and in return each country would operate external controls on behalf of the others. Among the member countries, crossborder co-operation between judiciaries and national police forces would be stepped up. Early on, when Schengen consisted of only France, Germany and the Benelux countries, the system more or less worked. Now Schengenland extends to 12 EU countries as well as Norway and Iceland, and the leaks are springing up all over - just as Britain warned.

Unlike some other No's emanating from London, our hostility has proved a resounding vindication of old-fashioned British pragmatism. Resistance was born not of a Euro-sceptic conviction that this was just another piece of trickery by the federalists: an amhitious measure they knew would require other steps to make it work and which once accepted would nudge Europe a little further towards the real goal of full political union.

The objections were legal, practical and entirely reasonable. As an island, Britain has always found it easier and more natural to operate controls at the point of entry, rather than once an immigrant was already inside the country. Furthermore, we argued,

unfettered freedom of movement within Europe should legally apply not to everyone. hut exclusively to EU citizens. Be idealists at your peril we warned; Schengen was no way to contain drug trafficking, terrorism and illegal immigration. That, however, was not the view of the Schengen signatories at the time. But when Spain, Portugal, and above all Italy signed on, border-free Europe became too good to be true.

The Old Continent of course has not had much luck with timing. When Schengen was first conceived, back in 1985, Algeria was at peace, Yugoslavia still existed, and Communism did Fortress Europe's job for it, employing dogs, fences and watchtowers to keep its wretched subjects from straying. In those days the few who made it were not treated as sponging riff-raff but feted as freedom's heroes. These days everyone wants to come and, one way or another, many of them can.

In this particular case, the obvious villains are German polincians, outbidding each other on law and order in an election year, and barely veiling their ancestral prejudices against slandash Italians who couldn't run a dog show, let alone a serious horder control policy. In one breath they casugate Turkey for gross human rights violations against its Kurdish populatioo - only to insist in the next that Kurds who do make it to Italy are simply in search of the economic good life, and should be sent home forthwith.

Whatever happens in this particular instance, there will be more of them. There will be other Bosnias and Algerias. Economic and political misery, the motors of great migrations, have not been abolished, and the world's people-smugglers and mafias, who grow rich off this misery, are a good deal more efficient than governments trying to stamp out the practice. Dealing humanely and equitably, with immigration from less fortunate lands will be a constant challenge to the EU for the foreseeable future. This time Italy is in the hot seat. But it could as easily be the French, or even us (remember that uproar not so long ago over a few hundred Czech gypsies at Dover?).

Thus the crisis illustrates some wider Euro-truths. One is that grand gestures tend to hump into unforeseen realities. So it will be with the single currency, and so it is with Schengen. Once again, the European cart has been put hefore the horse. Only now is the realisation dawning that if free movement of people inside the ramparts of Fortress Europe is to embrace fleeing Kurds, desperate Albanians and terrified Algerians, as well as EU citizens - then the only way to avoid distortions is to have common asylum laws and common welfare benefits for those who are allowed to stay.

In the meantime though, Schengen offers a splendid opportunity to Britain to score brownie points during its six-month stint in the EU presidency. After the Kurdish fiasco. the case for Britain signing up is weaker than ever. But the case for "constructive pragmatism" is overwhelming. We have everything to gain from developing Schengen's provisions for cross-border police co-operation, to combat drugs and international crime. Indeed, this is central to the "Europe for the People" for which New Labour strives. Just as long as we don't say, "I told you so."

Situation critical: forget the CIA, send for the bankers

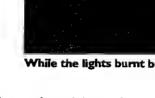


MARY **DEJEVSKY** ON THE NEW IMPERIALISM

Long ago, when the collapse of the Soviet Union was fresh in political minds, it became fashionable to hail the end of history. A different view, less celebrated but longer lived. foretold the continuation of ideological struggle by other means. Arms control. the thought ran - that areane science which substituted for a barometer of international trust - would be replaced by trade regulation, another pseudoscience in which the small print was no less amenable to selfish manipulation, Politics would

be subsumed in economics. Proponents of this scenario saw a gathering storm between the United States and the European Union, the world's two most advanced, internationally active and least complementary trade blocs, about the rules and regulations that would govern world trade. That storm simmers still and could yet break. But in the last months of the old year what the US Secretary of State called in an unguarded moment the risk of "Asian meltdown": a local crisis with global implications in which economies and polities were inseparable. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Washington, from where efforts to limit the

damage were coordinated. At the headquarters of the tional Monetary Fund, lights burned late. Senior hankers and diplomats made secret visits to the afflicted countries: the most sensitive were to South Korea in the week before its government appealed for outside help. In a textbook exercise in panic-suppression. US politicians remained in the background, aware that anything they said or did publicly could make a had situation worse. The season was on their side: preoccupied with shop-



people had other things on

their mind.

Behind the scenes, though, the politicians were not idle. At the White House, it transpires, Christmas parties alternated with crisis meetings in the Situation Room, the secure underground briefing centre endlessly reproduced in films as the world's emergency room, Six years before, the subject would have been the imminent demise of the Soviet Union. Ten years before that, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and so it was thoroughly eclipsed by on back to the Cuban missile

crisis and hevond. Last month's meetings were also about the survival of the world as we know it. Only the nature of the threat was different. Where once the threat was military power, now the threat was economic vulnerability. At stake were jobs, living standards, but also peace. What if South Korea's banks defaulted World Bank and the Interna- on their dehts? What if Japan - the world's second largest economy after the US - followed suit? What if international institutions ran out of money to cushion the fall? What would happen to the world trading system, to currencies and to the world's most flourishing economy, that of the US?

In times past, the New York Times observed, the walls of the Situation Room would have been hung with charts and maps; now there were television sets tuned to CNN and

ping, parties and the weather, computerised economic models. Then, the CIA's brightest and best would have come up from Langley to discuss their latest intelligence reports; now, there were financial consultants from JP Morgan. But the most senior figures from the departments of State and Defence were there too: bailing out Korean hanks - or not - held implications for foreign relations, for national security and - with the mood in North Korea seemingly more volatile than for many years - international security as well.

As ever, assembling the information was only half the hattle; interpretation and forecasting were of the essence. It may be years before the decisions taken at these meetings can be fully assessed. They included agreement to work only through the IMF, to offer additional support (but not primary) funding, to increase the initial amount pledged to Korea, and to refuse, but then to permit - twice - emergency advances from the promised loan.

Ouestions about the effectiveness of US action have studded the American media since the onset of the Korean crisis, and while the main tumult may have been weathered South Korea did not default, nor did Japan, and the IMF did not run out of money - the questions continue, and US experts remain divided.

Optimists maintain that the US economy is so strong and the economic failures in Asia so well contained and so relatively simple to rectify that life will go on as before. Some believe that the chain of crises may even have been salutary in teaching profligate governments, bankers and investors to be more circumspect, to observe the happy median between the out-and-out free market and government regulation that the US itself observes.

Pessimists, however, contend that the Asian crisis will reverberate more widely and more strongly than has yet been appreciated and that the US economy will be damaged, both from limitless obligations to bail-outs and from an influx of cheap Asian goods, Embedded in this view is fear that the medicine of stricter financial regulation prescribed by the US-dominated IMF could be inappropriate or even harmful to some Asian economies, including Korea's. Economic collapse and civil unrest could be the result.

If the optimists are right, the world can breathe easy and adapt to the American rhythm. The US economic model that Americans like to describe as free-market capitalism (hut which entails considerably more government regulation and subsidies than either term would suggest) is vindicated and the ideological victory over communism has only to be consolidated in the economic arena. This was the view trumpeted by US officials before the

Denver last year. The Korean crisis, widely blamed on an excess of free market and a shortage of democratic government, is its first real test.

If even some of the pessimists' concerns are horne out, however, certain truths that Americans have held to be self-evident, at least for the past decade, could suddenly appear less so. There would be no reason why other countries should feel obliged to follow the American way of economics. The border between government and free market need not be drawn always and everywhere precisely where it is currently drawn in the US. And even if America's own prosperity were not seriously endangered, its allconquering post-cold war confidence could he.

For now, Washington's leading role behind the scenes of the IMF and the strict conditions that limit each Asian recipient's freedom to govern have made the United States into a global economic patron, a sort of imperial power for the new century. Already, though, the natives are growing restless. The Asian beneficiaries are resisting demands for economic rigour. The US right is vowing to block more money for the IMF And at the point where economics and politics intersect, inviting the JP Morgans and their ilk into the Situation Room may not be the solution. For the new dominos of Asia, their power was part Group of Seven summit in of the problem.



While the lights burnt brightly in the Christmas White House, crisis meetings went on in the basement

The credit card people have just sent you a pair of scissors ...

JOHN WALSH



Look at yourself. It's early January and you are horribly short of money after the recent mandatory purchase of a half-life-size Scalextric Monaco Grand Prix (£498.99) and a complete set of Spice Girl Dolls (£21.99 each) complete with fullyaccessorised electric Union Jack Spicemobile (don't ask). Having failed to penetrate the intricacies of the selfassessment tax form, you face paying the Inland Revenue a penalty of £100 at the end of the month. The bank are wondering, a little noisily, if your overdraft should really be creeping into five figures. The credit card people have sent you a pair of scissors in the post. The great-aunt in Palm Springs, on whose imminent demise and legacy you were pinning all hopes of affording a holiday this summer, has become more spry than ever and has gone snow-boarding in Aspen. A huge bailiff from the local conneil is on your doorstep. all pristine trainers and nasty haircut. What do you do?

Do what they do in America. Go hankrupt. It's a popular activity Stateside. The Visa people have just reported that 1.34 million Yanks declared themselves bankrupt last year. That's one person in 200, compared with the British figures of one in two thousand. That means 0.5 per cent of the whole American population put the financial shutters up on their lives, drew their own bottom line, cancelled most of their

outstanding debts, and thumbed their noses at the IRS. It's the biggest thumbsup for bankruptcy since the Depression, and probably beyond. And it's happening. let me remind you, in the middle of a long American economic boom.

The Visa people are tut-

tutting about how irresponsibly their cardholders "are pursuing bankruptcy as a first option to solve their financial difficulty instead of as a last resort". But there's more to it than that. Bankruptcy is a form of existential hernism. Provided you aren't saddled with a half-paid-off mortgage. a wife and three kids, you can dissolve the entire fabric of your job, home and lifestyle, and relocate to New Jersey or Des Moines with a new "earning pattern" and the equivalent of a new identity. Americans, famously, feel no sense of stigma or shame about bankruptcy, while to English ears it sounds as glamorous as impotence or halitosis. But you know that, as with every American trend, this will change too. Soon we shall all be metaphorically pulling out our pockets, boasting about our lack of funds ("Went belly-up for 300 grand, old boy. Fancy a Wincarnis?") and decamping to Durham or Piddletrenthyde to start a new life.

Which brings us to Anthea Turner and her new inamorato, Mr Grant Bovey.

Independent readers, who rarely lift their eyes from the pages of Gibbon's Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire long enough to register the existence of commercial relevision, may need to be told that Ms Turner is a slender, blonde, wholesomelooking person who is always photographed with her teeth elamped together, who used to front a breakfast news show with a pissed-off Ulsterman called Eamonn. but gave it up to present listless light-entertainment shows called Per Power and All You Need Is Love, and will soon be alerting the nation on Saturday nights to the fact that they haven't won the Lottery again.

Aauanyway, she left her retired DJ hushand and manager Peter Powell last week for the handsome hut shadowy Mr Bovey, and the revelation of their love has pitched the tabloid press into a fever of indignation. Anne Robinson in the Express counselled the abandoned Mrs Bovey to lose half a stone and streak her hair. When Turner's husband said he hoped his wife had a happy and fulfilling time with her new beau. Lynda Lee-Potter in the Mail crossly assured him that the wife didn't want his understanding (you idiot): what she wanted was for him "to throw her over his shoulder, hissing through elenched manly teeth. You're staving with me." And The Sun dug around in Mr Bovey's past

and claimed that his company had once owed money to, among others. Cours Bank, the Nationwide Building Society, Texaco Oil and Kevin Keegan. But why this animosity be a young woman who should, hy rights, be the Nation's Sweetheart? An answer may be found in the pages of the new TV Times. where a precise and preadulterous Anthea sits pertly on a steumer trunk, as she dilates on her "clean livingimage", her lack of sexappeal, and her happiness with the epithet of "girl next door". The words "Proper Little Madam" fairly jump off the page at you. On the side of the steamer trunk, there's a sticker bearing the words "Not Wanted on Voyage". You somehow know that, in Ms Turner's journey to the tup, almost anyone hushands, grandmothers. colleagues - could all be accommodated inside it.

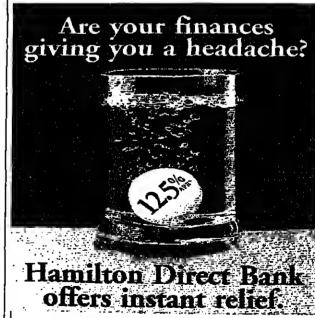
Now Twellth Night has come and gone. I hesitate by mention the C-word again. except to award a couple of marketing initiatives. Most Inept Seasonal Advertisement was a promotion in the windows of a leading chain of bookshops that teatured banners emblazoned with the words "Make somebody happy with a book". They were illustrated by a laughing face and the words "Ho Ho Ho!" Books, it implies, make you fall about. But if you examine the banners, you note that

one of the books pictured as uproarious fun is 4 People's Tragedy, Orlando Figes's vasi history of the Russian Revolution, with its cover photograph of traumatised Georgian peasants. International Customer

Relations Award goes to San

Francisco Airport, Some friends who flew from there on Christmas Day report how they presented their Economy Class tickets at the check-in desk, and confidently assumed (given the day they were flying) they would be upgraded to First Class. But then about 50 other seasonal travellers turned up for the same flight, having likewise decided to fly when unbody else was doing so, all similarly keen to be upgraded. But First Class was almost full. There was one seat available. Who would get the free champagne and the personal massage? The management thought about it, and called the passengers together. "Come back at 4pm with a prepared carol," they said, "and whoever sings the best will get the seat". Doré himself would be pushed to capture the Purgatory of karaoke warblings that rang round the bureaux de change and the luggage carousels. A Japanese bloke finally won the seat with an impassioned aria by, I believe, Verdi. Those who'd struggled through all of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" were understandably (and unseasonably) hacked off.

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CHAMILTON

Gambling industry deregulation is shelved indefinitely

The Government has delayed plans to deregulate the casino and betting industry indefinitely. Andrew Yates reports on a move that could cost the gambling industry hundreds of millions of pounds.

The Home Office is understood to have postpoued plans to introduce legislation which would have allowed casinos and betting shops to attract customers by installing more gaming machines. The proposals are unlikely to be adopted for several years at least, according to industry sources. Similarly plans to increase the number of casinos around the country by granting up to 25 new licences in provincial towns and cities are believed to have been shelved for the foreseeable future.

A question mark is also hanging over a number of other industry reforms which had been due to be introduced in a new government bill within the next few months. These include allowing punters to become a member of a casino by post. Under the current system customers are forced to apply in person.

The industry has been lobbying to be allowed some form of limited advertising. At present casinos are prevented from advertising or even listing their name in the phone book. However this measure could also be put on the back-burner along with proposals to allow customers to join a group of casinos by making just one application.

Before the election Labour Party officials told industry chiefs that it was keen to push ahead with the gaming deregulation programme that had been put in train by the Conservative administration. But since then it has dragged its feet and failed to announce the adoption of any new measures. Now there are growing fears throughout the betting industry that the Home Office is poised to make a policy U-turn.

One source said: "The government has other priorities at the moment with a heavy legislative programme. Gambling deregulation is hardly a vote winner and it will be swept under the carpet for the time being or possibly for ever."

Eighteen months ago the Tories increased the number of gaming machines permitted casinos from two to six and fixed the maximum jackpot at £250. The idea was eventually to allow three machines per gaming table with unlimited stakes and pay outs.

Two slot machines were also permitted in betting shops with payouts of up to £10. Hopes of further machines appear to have been dashed.

The delays will have wide-scale financial repercussions for betting groups. Bruce Jones, a leisure analysts at Merrill Lynch, the City brokers, estimates that delays to earning deregulation will cost companies millions of pounds of profits. The introduction of more gaming machines alone could have increased the profits at Stanley Leisure by a half, Stakis by a fifth and London Clubs International (LCI) by 15 per cent. "The introduction of gaming machines was the big prize for the industry," said Mr Jones.

The prospects of further delays have prompted an outcry from the betting industry yesterday. Alan Goodenough, head of LCL one of the biggest casino operators in the country, but be said he was bitterly disappointed by the continued delays. "On the face of it the Government bas a will to deregulate the industry but behind the scenes I am not quite so sure. The situation is a nonsense and is evidence of mollycoddling by a nanny state."

The delays may force casino operators such as LCI look overseas for expansion opportunities, "The fact of the matter is that we are a mile off the international pace. This could take a lot of business overseas and this decision could damage the economy of the country and the tourist industry," said Mr Goodenough.

However the move was welcomed by anti-gambling pressure groups and by charities which have already seen revenues eroded by the National Lottery.

Even if gaming deregulation is eventually adopted, the industry will probably have to accept watered down proposals.

The Home Office said yesterday that the deregulation of the gaming industry was still under consideration but refused to comment on whether immediate plans had been



A total of 3.4 million people - 37 per cent of the taxpayers - face fines of £100 each if they do not return their forms by the end of the month, yielding the Treasury up to £340m, it emerged yesterday. Rory McGrath, the comedian (above), joined Hector the Tax Inspector in urging self-employed taxpayers to return their forms and tax payments by 31 January. Surcharges

for late payment will also begin after that date. However, Revenue officials insisted that 90 per cent of the remaining forms were due from accountants and tax agents, who always returned clients' forms at the last minute. So far 5.6 million of the 9 million returns have been completed and filed with the tax inspectors, as of 31 December.

donesia will emerge as the most

affected of a group of econom-

ically troubled Asian nations.

strength in the wake of Tues-

day's hudget, dubbed by ana-

lysts as the "denial budget"

because it contained astonish-

ingly unrealistic assumptions.

including a projection of 4 per

cent economic growth and an

exchange rate against the US dollar of 4.000 rupiah. The

rupiah stood at 8,100 to the

Indonesian government will simply declare a debt moratorium,

turning its back on loan repay-

ments with the same disregard

it has shown for adherence to the

terms of the International Mon-

age. The IMF, in turn, is reported

to be looking again at the release

of further funds to Indonesia.

The close connections be-

tween President Subarto's fam-

ily and many of the private

Indonesian companies most

likely to default, adds to the

complications of achieving the

kind of sweeping reforms nec-

already hubbling to the surface

ctary Fund (IMF) rescue pack-

The fear now is that the

dollar yesterday.

This feeling gathered

Photograph: Christian Schwetz

Coal could face tougher pollution targets

The coal industry was dealt another severe blow yesterday after the Environment Agency called for much tougher pollution reduction targets for coal-fired power stations.

The new move would see the deadline for cuts in sulphur dioxide emissions from power stations brought forward from 2005 to 2001. The existing target, set two years ago, was for a cut of 84 per cent in sulpbur emissions, compared with 1991 levels. The reduction was needed to comply with a much tougher government strategy for improving air quality.
The targets mean sulphur emissions

would have fallen from 2.3 million tonnes in 1991 to 500,000 tonnes in 2001. In addition, the agency is pressing for a fur-ther reduction in emissions to just 365,000 tonnes. Almost all the sulpbur dioxide emitted from the power industry is produced from coal generation.

A consultation paper released by the agency yesterday argued that pollution from coal-fired power stations had dropped much faster than expected, large-ly because of the "dash for gas" and the extended operating life of older Magnox nuclear stations. As a result, less electricity would be needed from the remaining coalfired stations than was predicted when the targets were approved in March 1996.

The agency insisted the targets would not mean excessive extra costs for gencrators."We bave taken into account the costs for the industry. These numbers haven't just been plucked out of the air. They are realistic," said a spokesman.

However coal generating stations might have to install desulphorisation equipment, currently fitted to just two power stations, to comply with the targets. Another possibility was for generators to hurn lower-sulpbur coal, which could encourage the industry to buy more supplies from abroad. British coal tends to bave a higher sulpbur content.

The proposals put further pressure on ministers as they grapple with the coal crisis. RJB Mining, the largest coal producer, faces a drop of around half in demand from generators when long-term contracts expire at the end of March. - Chris Godsmork

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Savings proposals under fresh attack Asian turmoil hits

The Government yesterday came under renewed attack over the proposed individual savings account, as the financial services industry accused it of glossing over the vital issue of protection for the very people it wants to encourage. Andrew Verity reports on complaints that the proposals would turn supermarket checkout staff into unqualified financial advisers.

The country's leading savings companies yesterday unanimously came out to warn that the individual savings account designed to replace Peps will not work for low-income savers.

of the product has been so poorly thought-out that supermarket till staff would be faced with the same daunting responsibilities as qualified financial advisers.

hold up to £1,000 in cash, £5,000 in collective investments will be left unprotected.

Directors of the companies

They warned that regulation

The proposals are designed to give savers a low-cost, taxefficient account which can £1,000 in life insurance or such as unit trusts. Initially, objections focused on the proposed lifetime limit of £50,000 on contributions to the account. But the savings industry has become increasingly frightened that low-income savers

said the complexity of the product was totally incompatible with unregulated selling through outlets such as Tesco. They warned that the propos-

als meant it would be sold by unqualified personnel with no protection against a bad sale. A Treasury spokeswoman

said she was unable to comment before 31 January, when consultation is due to end. David Mossop, chief execu-

tive of Perpetual, the UK's largest Pep provider, said: "Is someone who is 16, on the cash till at Sainsbury's, going to be trained to the same level of competence as a professional adviser? Is the girl going to say, 'Invest £5,000 in equities with us and we'll give you half price on your Christmas turkey?" The idea that this thing can be sold effectively with proper consumer pro-

tection is pie in the sky." Currently, life insurance and unit trusts are sold under strict rules which insist customers must be given best advice by qualified sales people. while cash deposits are more

lightly regulated. The Govern-HK conglomerate ment proposes to create a hybrid product with one foot in cach regime.

The industry fears that savers could be encouraged to put money on deposit at a supermarket or elsewhere, only to find they had barred themselves from investing more than money in other investments with better returns. Further, the complexity of the product will sharply increase costs.

Tom King, group director of largest mutual life insurer, said: "You could make a decision at a supermarket that will affect your ability to invest elsewhere in the long-term, when good advice would be to discuss other investments. The Government wants a low-cost product to which the public will have easy access - and this isn't it."

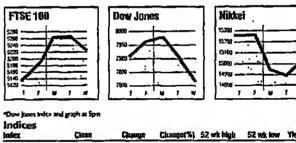
The Asian markets turmoil last sensus in the region that In-

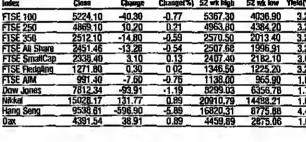
night looked poised to take its tall on one of the region's fastest growing finance conglomerates, Peregrine Investments Holdings. Shares in the company were suspended yes-£1,000 - or from putting their terday as it was revealed that the Zurich Group, the insurance giant, was reconsidering its offer to take a 24 per cent stake in Peregrine.

There was speculation in Standard Life, the country's Hong Kong that Zurich might walk away from the \$200m (£122m) deal which could leave Percerine in serious difficulty. The Hong Kong company has admitted to heavy losses as a result of the sharp downturn in Asian markets. It has recently been embroiled in well publicised difficulties in Indonesia, Vietnam and Burma, Peregrine is trying to sell one-third of its equity to outside investors, including Zarich.

The company promises to make an announcement on the situation today, but yesterday said only that the renegotiation with Zurich was related to "the continuing decline in South-east Asian currency markets and the recent downgrading of the credit ratings of Indonesia and South Korea".

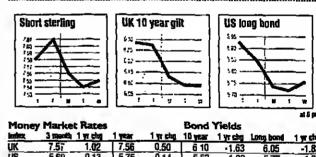
The Asian currency meltdown gathered pace yesterday, a possibility that WorldCom's led by a plunge in the Indonesian rupiah. The Indonesia curlators, or that its share-price rency crashed 15 per cent at one point in yesterday's trading before ending the day with an 11 - Chris Godsmark per cent fall. There is now a con-





INTEREST RATES

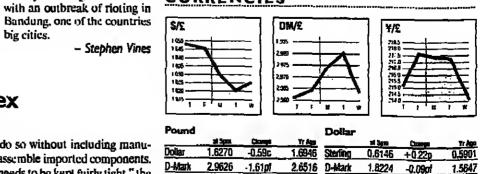
STOCK MARKETS



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

essary to revive the economy. On the other hand, the	Rises	Price (g)	(Pig (p)	% Chapt	Falls	Price (p)	Chig (p)	*0
IMF's remedies effectively call	Albright and Wil	155 50	9.50	6.51	Schroders	1700.00	110.00	-6.
	Gallaher Grp	356,50	20.50	6.10	HSBC	1493.00	-89.00	-5.
for mass unemployment and	Booker	353,50	20.00	6.00	Rexam	275	-16	-5.
corporate closures which could	JBA Hidgs	1112,50	57.50	5.45	Orange	251	-16 -13	-4.5
trigger social unrest, symptoms								

CURRENCIES



104 90 OTHER INDICATORS

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Brent Oil (\$)	15.00	-9.02	25.00	GDP	113.90	3.70	109.84	J
Gold (\$)	282.95	2.10	358.85	RPI	159.60	3.70	153.91	
Silver (\$)	6.10	80.0	4.68	Base	Rates	7.25	6.00	

195.30 Yen 131.70 -42.14 115.24

GTE puts a spanner in the wheel of WorldCom's MCI bid

The \$37bn takeover bid for with MCI collapse last year like to continue to build the rephones giant, by WorldCom is facing new hurdles, it emerged yesterday, following a complaint to regulators by GTE, the phones group which lost out in a three-way offer battle.

The objection to the deal, made this week, came as GTE revealed plans to expand its operations in Europe and raised the prospects of an alliance

MCI, the US long distance after the higher bid approach by WorldCom. GTE made clear that it hoped

regardless of the outcome of the WorldCom bid for MCI. Had GTE won the bid, it would have cemented a close partnership with BT, though GTE said threeway merger talks were not seriously contemplated. Mike Masin, GTE's vice

with British Telecom, which chairman responsible for inalso saw its plans to merge ternational strategy, said: "We'd

lationship with BT."

GTE, the third largest telecoms business in the US, said it to expand its relationship with BT had raised objections to the WorldCom link-up with MCI with the Federal Communications Commission, the regulator.

Mr Masin said the group had "expressed certain reservations," including the possibility that WorldCom could use its dominance to raise wholesale line charges to other operators. GTE last summer entered

the bidding frenzy for MCl with a \$28bn all-cash offer. The hid remains on the table, though WorldCom raised its offer from \$30hn to \$37bn last November, enough to persuade the MCl board to recommend the deal to shareholders.

Mr Masin said there was still bid would fall foul of US reguwould drop, reducing the price paid to MCI's investors.

But it wants to do so without including manufacturers which assemble imported components. "The definition needs to be kept fairly tight," the

spokesman said. Even though share prices in the panies are planning to submit applications for index's members have risen sharply since its creation was announced, not all companies are desperate to join. The IT recruitment firm CRT, which was also left out, is dismissive. Karl Chapman, the chief executive, said: "At

the end of the day your share price is a function of profits and cash flow, not the stock market sector you're in."

Complaints prompt Stock Exchange to think again on membership of IT index

The Stock Exchange is to reconsider the mem- Psion—the hand-beld computer maker which is Selby. "We think we're prime candidates." bership of its new information technology index arguably Britain's most successful hi-tech comfollowing complaints from companies who have been left out. At least three firms are writing to FTSE International, the agency which administers the Exchange indices, to argue for their in-

clusion in the sector. Meanwhile, the committee which considers sector classifications is to review the definition of the sector when it next meets in March. The current definition includes IT consultants and software distributors, but leaves out manufac-

pany - is not part of the index.

This has surprised investors, since the original reason for setting up the sector was to help international investors spot British bigh-tech firms. "I don't think it's been terribly well thought through," one observer remarked.

Videologic, the computer chip designer which has also been excluded from the index, plans to press its case with FTSE International. "The key is to include companies who create intellectuturers of computer hardware. This means that all property," said the finance director, Trevor finition of the sector to include firms like Psion.

Other companies which want to be part of the index are computer memory distributors Ideal

Hardware and Datrontech. Advisers to both comthem to join. FTSE International admits that the sector was created in a hurry. "We wanted to do something before the end of the year," a spokesman said. Due to the pressure that adjustments put on financial information providers, sectors are only reviewed once a year.

FTSE International is keen to change the de-

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OUTLOOK

ON WHY THE GOLD PRICE ISN'T FALLING, BONUS **CUTTING AMONG** LIFE-ASSURANCE COMPANIES, AND ANOTHER YEAR OF TURMOIL FOR THE RECS

Don't worry; the gold price means nothing

What a dreadful time for gold bugs. Or hold your cash. In South Korea, gold has in the commodities markets, there isn't tax credit on equity dividends. The mois it? The price of gold, it is often said, is in the eye of the beholder and never more so than now. While the headlines here and in the US scream that the gold price has hit an 18 year low, portending the start of a new age of deflation, that is far from the view in large parts of the rest of the world. Certainly the idea of the gold price as an indicator of what might happen in the wider economy is nonsense. A har of gold is an entirely inert thing; its price tells you nothing about anything except supply and demand.

Right now, the price of gold depends very much on your location. This is because gold is denominated in dollars and over the past year, the dollar has been one of the world's strongest currencies. The US might like to think of itself as the centre of the world, but in terms of population, it's nothing special. If you happen to live in South Korea, Thailand or Indonesia, the price of gold is not at a new low at all; in local currency terms it is in fact at an all time high.

Furthermore, outside the US and Europe there is a radically different view of the intrinsic value of this strangely behaving metal. In India, the largest huyer of hullion last year, runaway demand for gold is in part being caused by the fear that the Indian Rupee might go the same way as the Korean Won. In this country at least. the ancient attributes of gold as something that holds its value through thick and thin still very much hold good.

As it does too in countries where banks have come to be seen as unsafe places to performed better than almost any other investment, proving its credentials beyond any doubt as a safe haven in times of trouble. Moreover, even if it were possible to buy dollars with Korea Wons, most Koreans have grown wary of anything that needs to be held in something as unreliable as a bank.

So here we have a very different view of gold, one that continues to view it as a reliable store of value. Precisely what is causing it to drop in dollar terms right now is certainly a curiosity. Demand for gold last year reached an all time high and there is evidence that the low gold price might cause a contraction in supply as mines are mothballed or closed. Theoretically, the price should be rising. Against this, however, is the continued threat of large scale gold sales by central hanks from reserves. That's caused a collapse in sentiment and prompted many traders to take out short positions.

Longer term there is no reason to believe the gold price will continue plummeting into the depths. Those who take this view do so largely on the grounds that because the gold price has done well in inflationary times, it must correspondingly do badly if prices are falling. Wrong, Apart from anything else, gold is not on the evidence a particularly good hedge against inflation. Its real - that is, inflation-adjusted - price has been gently falling for the past 20 years.

Nor would it be right to view its present, relatively low, dollar price as a clear deflationary signal. Gold is quite unlike most other commodities. Its purpose is often a purely decorative one. Elsewhere mucb evidence of deflation. And in any case, commodity prices rarely make good forward indicators. If you are not holding gold, don't worry about it. The collapse in its dollar price means nothing at all.

Bad news for life assurance

Mysterious stuff, life assurance. If you hought a with profits policy in the mid 1980s, chances are you were quoted some impressive estimated maturity values. Unfortunately, these would almost certainly have been based on the heady annual bonus levels then being declared. If you've still got the estimate, look it up, because you are not going to get anything like as much as they said.

Several life assurance companies have already announced sharp cuts in reversionary honuses this week and most others will be following suit shortly. How can this be? After all, the stock market had another record year last year.

Lamentably, it doesn't work like that. Throughout most of the 1990s overall rates of return, both on equites and bonds have been falling. It's our old friend deflation once more. Most life companies have desperately been trying to ignore this painful reality, digging into their free assets in an effort to keep bonuses high so as better to market their life policies. Then last year, there was a particularly hig drop in returns

ment of truth has now arrived.

Defenders of this old fashioned, paternalistic way of saving say it doesn't really matter. Lower returns are merely a reflection of lower rates of inflation, and in real terms the punter will end up with just as much money as he was quoted in the 1980s, when it was assumed inflation would remain high.

What's more, the annual bonus, decided by actuaries on the basis of what they think fair and reasonable, is what makes with profits life assurance different from unit linked forms of saving. It may be that life companies are now being too conservative in their bonus policy. If this proves to be the case, it will be reflected in more generous terminal bonuses when policies mature. Over the life time of the policy, the peaks and troughs are ironed out.

As even the industry's most die hard supporters concede, however, at a time when bonuses are being cut, it is hard to make people understand these merits. There will always be a sizeable market for with profits life assurance, but the latest round of bonus cuts will do nothing to enhance the already dented reputation of this opaque and sometimes fuddy duddy old industry.

Get a move on **Margaret Beckett**

While the Government dithers about the future shape of the electricity industry on gilts, exacerbated by the removal of the events across the Atlantic look like fore-

ing the issue. Just before Christmas two of the biggest US power groups. American Electric Power (AEP) and Central and South West (CSW) revealed £4bn merger plans. Unfortunately for officials at the Department of Trade and Industry, who are already busy grappling with the review of utility regulation, the US deal also threatens to hring about the first merger of British regional electricity companies (RECs). AEP owns 50 per cent of Yorkshire Electricity, while CSW owns Seeboard, one of the earliest REC takeovers,

Though the merged American parent companies could obviously dispose of one or other of these British interests if that's what regulators demanded, they would certainly like to keep both of them and pool their resources. If this were allowed it would kick-start a host of other REC mergers, predicted for so long by industry insiders but resisted by the industry regulator, Stephen Littlechild at Offer.

All in all, the whole thing looks like a pretty unwelcome Christmas present for the DTI, which is already under intense pressure from Ed Wallis at PowerGen to let generators buy RECs. With pressure now mounting from the US, it is time for the government to make some difficult decisions. The sooner the DTI outlines its vision for the industry the better for all. The industry will be better able to judge whether consolidation makes commercial sense and regulators will be better placed to decide whether customers would be harmed by it. Get a move on Margaret

City predicts no early move on rates despite service sector boom

As the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee started its first meeting of the new year yesterday, a new survey showed one part of the economy, services, is still booming.

But City experts stuck to the view that the Bank would save the next rise in interest rates until February. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, reports.

In sharp contrast to the subdued state of manufacturing, the service industries continued to boom last month. Output and orders were up, as were employment and prices charged, and the expansion would have been even faster but for chronic shortages of skilled labour.

The activity index for services reported by the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply rose slightly to 57.6 from 57.5 in November. It pointed to a pace of growth less than the heights reached during the summer but still very robust.

The results came as a hit of a surprise to economists, who generally expect the economy to show pronounced signs of a slowdown before long. The survey came as a reminder that the economic picture is very mixed.

strength in the service industries third month running. are not expected to persuade the Monetary Policy Committee to raise the cost of borrowing today, at the end of its two-day meeting. On the other hand, the Bank is thought likely to make that move next month unless official figures signal meanwhile that a decisive slowdown in growth is under way.

Stephen Lewis, chief econ-

omist at Monument Derivatives, said: "Evidence that the UK economy is already slowing is far from conclusive." He predicted the Bank would stick to its "better safe than sorry" view, and increase interest rates in February from the current level of 7.25 per cent.

The 500 companies surveyed by the CIPS said new business had increased strongly from 58.0 in November to 60.9, the biggest jump since May, with the strongest growth in business -services. Their hacklog of un-Even so, the signs of finished work increased for the

Employment in services climbed for the 15th consecutive month as firms tried to increase their capacity to meet the demand. The report commented: "Firms widely reported skill shortages as a constraint to further expanding capacity." Not surprisingly, the pres-

sure on wages and salaries, also up for the 18th month in

succession, seni prices charged to customers higher too. The average prices index rose from 50 - a level indicating as many price cuts as increases - to 53.1.

David Hillier, an economist at Barclays Capital, said the fact that husinesses in the sector were passing on their increased costs was the most important feature of the survey. He said: "The inflation numbers will slin away from the Bank over the next few months." Another natural result was

that the respondents reported a big improvement in their optimism about future business. More than two-thirds said they expected their level of husiness to increase during the next 12 months, while only o per cent expected growth to slow. Peter Thomson, director

general of the CIPS, said: Growth in the service sector still remains strong enough to generate concerns over capac-

US subsidiary of BAT cited in 'high-nicotine' investigation

A criminal investigation into the US tobacco industry touched Brown & Williamson, a subsidiary of BAT, the British tobacco giant, for the first time after charges were filed against a biotechnology firm for its work on developing a high-nicotine leaf.

In a new twist in a three-yearold investigation, the Justice Department said yesterday that DNA Plant Technology Corp of California had been formally charged because of its involvement in a tobacco company's attempts to raise tobacco plants with unusually high nicotine yields on farms in Brazil. Officials at the Department said the company involved was Brown & Williamson, America's third largest eigarette maker, While no charges were filed against B&W itself, the company is an unindicted co-conspirator, they said.

Government investigators have long suspected that B&W was attempting between 1984 and 1991 to develop the new plants in the bope of using them to manipulate nicotine levels and therefore addiction rates in the US market. Any such project could not legally bave been undertaken on American soil. DNA Plant Technology,

co-operate with the inquiry, is specifically charged with exporting seeds from the US to Brazil for the experiments without appropriate licences. The announcement comes as

misdemeanour and pledged to

a further embarrassment to Kentucky-based B&W as the entire industry awaits congressional action later this year on the \$368bn (£224bp) tobacco healthcosts settlement negotiated during 1997 between the cigarette companies and attorneys-general of some 30 US states.

which has already pleaded to a lieves that B&W was especially enthusiastic about a new tobacco plant type that it codenamed Y-1. The variety would apparently have contained a nicotine level of 6 per cent, or roughly twice the level that is normally found in flue-cured tobacco.

Officials said that when evidence first surfaced about the Brazilian project, DNA Plant Technology lied to the Food and Drug Administration in 1994 about the contract that had been signed between itself and Brown & Williamson as well as about the export of the tobacco seeds. The Justice Department be- an arrange in - David Usborne

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Guinness to create £350m business park in London

Guinness yesterday unveiled plans to create a £350m business park next to its famous Park Royal brewery in northwest London, which will create 5,000 new jobs. The scheme involves creat-

ing offices with underground parking. Bars and a health and fitness centre will be built along with new housing. Guinness's brewing arm will also get a new headquarters building as part Guinness has teamed up

with London and Regional Properties to renovate the 60acre site.

The proposals also envisage a new underground and bus interchange station to link the existing Piccadilly and Central lines and local buses, while a new road access off the A40 is also planned. Construction. work is expected to start in ness divulged plans for a new

early 1999, with completion scheduled for 2006.

Guinness first opened the Park Royal brewery in 1936 to work alongside its main site in Dublin.

The move is the latest chapter in the transformation of Guinness under Tony Greener. its chairman. Mr Greener recently orchestrated a merger with Grand Metropolitan to create Diageo, the biggest drinks group in the world. Mr Greener and John Mc-

Grath, his counterpart at Grand Metropolitan, have recently embarked on the process of restructuring the combined group's spirits division, a process which is likely to take at least six months and lead to more than 2,000 job losses around the world.

In a separate move, Guin-



Tony Greener: Orchestrating a transformation of Guinness

marketing strategy in an aitempt to woo younger drinkers to its famous black heer.

The company, which enjoys an 83 per cent share of the UK stout market, is looking to expand the market by targeting 20 to 25-year-olds via music festivals, comedy clubs and sporting events such as surfing. Sponsorship deals Guinness

has entered into include the

Fleadh festival of trish music in London and a chain of comedy clubs called Jongleurs.

Our core drinker is aged 25-35, hut we are quite weak in the 20 to 25-year-old age group," said Jeremy Probert. brand publicity manager for Guinness, "One way of hitting those people is through music. comedy and sport."

- Andrew Yates

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COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Courtaulds settles patent dispute with Austrian group

Courtaulds, the chemicals company, has finally settled its longrunning patent dispute with Austrian group Lenzing over the lyocell fibre. The affair has been dragging on four years. since Lenzing first accused Courtaulds of patent infringement. Courtaulds revealed that the dispute had cost it £5m-£10m, mostly in legal fees.

Yesterday the two companies agreed to cross-license each other on a royalty-free basis on all products related to lyoceil. Courtaulds uses the fibre to make Tencel, a robust, silky material used for suits and other garments.

No compensation has been paid by either side and both companies will now be free to manufacture and sell lyocell anywhere in the world without restriction. The two companies had battled since 1993 in US and European courts over patents both hold on lyocell. The company described the

agreement as "an honourable

score draw" that would enable both sides to develop the market for the fibre. Courtaulds opened a \$90m Tencel plant in Alabama in

1992. A further plant opened in the same location in 1996. A Tencel factory in Grimsby is expected to open later this year. Lyocell is produced from the

natural cellulose of woodpulp. Courtaulds says the fabric's qualities include its strength. colour intensity and low shrinkage during cleaning.

Analysts said the settlement was a positive step for both companies and would allow them to concentrate on huilding a market for what is now a niche product sold mainly by the two companies. dwarfed by the much larger market for acrylic and rayon

Courtaulds shares rose as much as 3p to 295p in early trading before easing back to

Nigel Cope

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

IT euphoria is unlikely to last

December was a great month for information technology (IT) stocks. When the Stock Exchange announced plans to give Britain's booming IT sector its own index, investors piled in. In five weeks shares in three of the sector's largest constituents - Sema, CMG and Logica have all risen by more than 15 per cent.

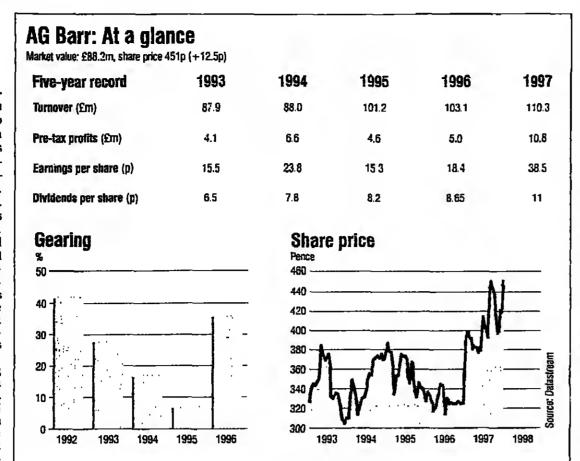
This euphoria looks unlikely to last. After all, the rise is down to investors adjusting their holdings to the sector. Currently a subdivision of the catch-all Support Services group, IT stocks will have their own sector once their combined value is large enough - probably at the end of this year. That means institutional investors need an exposure to the stocks, and judging by the recent scramble most were horribly underweight. The largest, most liquid stocks have enjoyed the biggest rises.

But valuations are looking stretched. CMG currently trades on a multiple of 36 times 1998 earnings. while Sema gets a multiple of 34. FI Group, buoyed by its recent Indian acquisition, is awarded an even more fancy rating. Even taking into account phenomenal growth, fuelled by the millennium bomb and the introduction of a single currency, this looks overdone.

The problem is that IT consultancies growth is limited by how much staff they can bring in, and recruitment is getting desperate. Schemes to guarantee anyone who passes a degree course a job, or to recruit unskilled workers and train them, may plug the gap for a while. Sooner or later, however, firms will have to start delaying contracts because they AG Barr success can't get the staff. If anything, these pressures will be worse this year than last **story continues** summer, when staff shortages prompted Logica to issue a profit warning.

Misys, Sage and Micro Focus offer much scope for outperformance.

prefer to sniff out some of the sector's report for any more.



smaller constituents, who have seen less of a rise and offer better value. There of the shares there are unlikely to be is also value to be had elsewhere in Support Services, which is one of our favoured sectors for 1998. But having to 451p, up another 12.5p yesterday. welcomed the creation of an IT sector,

investors should probably now avoid it.

Perhaps the software companies like AG Barr is hardly the most forthcoming of companies when It comes to re- were lower sugar prices helped by the better value? True, ratings are mar- leasing financial information. The strong pound and halving of the price ginally more modest and growth not so Glasgow-based drinks group, which vulnerable to staff factors. Even so, p/e makes Irn-Bru, Tizer and Orangina, remultiples in the mid-20s hardly offer leases only a single page of financial statistics to accompany its results and Bargain-hunting investors may makes investors wait for the annual

Still, given the recent performance and sugar prices are still low and the any complaints. The stock has jumped from 320p at the beginning of last year And the good news continued yesterday with a thumping set of figures for the 12 months to 25 October.

In effect they were a second set of interims as the company is changing its year end. They showed a huge jump in pre-tax profits from £5m to £10.8m on turnover up just 7 per cent, beating all analysts' forecast by some margin.

The main reasons for the increase of plastic bottles used in manufacture over the last 18 months. A further £1 m in costs savings came from the benefits of operating from the new factory in Cumberoauld in Scotland. The good news on costs is that plastic bottle

company feels there is scope for more efficiency gains at the new plant as it beds down.

It wasn't just a cost story. UK sales of AG Barr's own brands rose 7.5 per cent, although sales growth has slowed in recent weeks.

The key to AG Barr's longer term success is its invasion of the English market, its Im-Bru brand has a huge market share in Scotland but is only just starting to make progress south of the border.

Another potential problem is the recent decision by Pernod-Ricard to sell Orangina to Coca-Cola, profits from disposals harder to gener-However, as AG Barr has a franchise agreement to bottle and distribute the brand in Britain until December 2002 this issue is five years away.

On Greig Middleton's 15-month

forecast of £11.3m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 11. AG Barr remains a minnow in a market dominated by giants but at these levels the shares look decent value.

Scope for growth at Gartland

Tony Gartland, the chairman, and his management team which built up FKI, the engineer, have created another profitable niche at Gartland Whalley & Barker by taking big stakes in small companies and building them up for flotation or sale. The company reported another 63 per cent increase in pre-tax profit to £20.7m in the year to the end of October.

However, the figures failed to please the market. Almost half the profits last year came from the disposal of Quadramatic, which makes coin counting equipment, and the flotation of Aquarius, the bathrooms and furniture group, both of which took place in the first half of the year. Profits in the secand six months were disappointing. falling 12 per cent to £5m, causing the

shares to fall 3.5p to 119p yesterday. That reaction seems harsh. There is still scope for strong growth, in the UK and especially the US. This year Mr Gartland is predicting 15 acquisitions, two flotations including the recruitment business, Quantica, and the probable sale of Independent Parts Group, the quoted motor parts distributor, now a £33m business in which GWB has a 27 per cent stake. The new smaller company division, Crossley House Ventures, also announced its first acquisition yesterday, paying £3.6m in

cash and shares for Vatre Terracotta. There are risks. Profits are lumpy and the group's success hinges on its dealmaking ability. A stock market downtum a suld create bargains but make fat ate. Analysis forecast pre-tax profits of 122.1m. putting the shares on a prospective p/e of just 6. With management owning most of the company stock it can be difficult to come buy but, if you can get hold of them, the shares are worth a punt.

Car sales rise to give third best year on record

Car sales rose by 7.2 per cent to 2.17 million during 1997, the third best year on record, the Society of Motor Manufacturing and Traders confirmed yesterday. During December registrations rose by 8.3 per cent, to 84,634, though the share of the market taken by British made cars during the month slumped from 42 per cent to 35 per cent. It meant that imports accounted for 66 per cent of the market during 1997, a rise of 4 per cent on the previous year.

Ford took the top three sales slots last year, with the Fiesta in first place, though the group's market share dropped from 19.6 per cent to 18.3 per cent, Rover's market share was 10.01 per cent, down I per cent on 1996.

Amstrad man joins BDB

British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the digital terrestrial television joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada Group, has appointed Amstrad's former commercial director, Anthony Sethill, as a director. BDB said Mr Sethill will have marketing and general management responsibilities as the venture moves towards launch in the autumn. Analysts said Mr Sethill was instrumental in the start-up of Amstrad's satellite television business across Europe and initiated the development of its digital set-top box technology.

US finance houses ahead

Two leading US finance houses, Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and Lehman Brothers, have reported record fourth-quarter earnings, led by increasing profits from investment banking. Their shares declined, though, as US. stocks dropped and an-

alysts questioned if carnings would decline in the months ahead.

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, the biggest US securities firm in terms of equity capital, said earnings in the three months to November rose 79 per cent to a record \$810m, or \$1.33 a share. That exceeded analysts' average forecast of \$1.03 a fully diluted share. Lehman Brothers' fourth-quarter net income rose 46 per cent to \$185m, or \$1.30 a share. beating the average forecast of \$1.04 a share.

Shell and Ernst link up

Shell, the oil giant, is to create 400 jobs in Glasgow in a joint venture with accountants Ernst & Young. The new business, called Tasco Europe, will offer specialist accountancy services to companies, though initially it will provide support solely for Shell's European operations. The Scottish Office said the new jobs, in the Glasgow area, would be created in the next three years.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tace 6	EPS	Dividend
Certified Whelley (F)	55.01m (58.83m)	20.66m (12.66m)	16.0p (11.07p)	2.4p (0,32p)
AG Barr (F)	110.3m (103.1m)	10.82m (5.04m)	38.55p (18.46p)	11.0p (8.65p)
Dewson Holdings (F)	21.56m (24.71m)	13.79m (9.30m)	14.2p (12.0p)	4.8ρ (4.0)
Jersey Electricity (F)	21.56m (24.71m)	5.36m (4.66m)	2.80p (2.69p)	48.Dp (43.Dp)
(F) - Ficani (T) - Indestro	t EPS is pre-excep	Sonats "Dividend to	be paid as a Fill	

THE INDEPENDENT

Everyday in any one of six Conran restaurants

The Independent and Independent on Sunday in association with Terence Conran are delighted to offer readers the opportunity to enjoy lunch or early evening supper at six of London's top restaurants anyday throughout January and February for £10

From Monday January 5th until Saturday February 28th, 6 Conran Restaurants are exclusively offering readers of The Independent and Independent on Sunday a two course lunch or early evening supper for just £10. In addition, readers can take advantage of further special offers throughout the evening at a number of the restaurants, details of which we shall publish over the course of the promotion.

How to Book

To participate in the offer simply collect one token (tokens will be printed every day until Saturday February 28th) and then telephone the restaurant of your choice quoting the Independent offer. On your arrival at the restaurant you must present your token in order to qualify for the offer. Each token is valid for a complete table booking. The tokens will be valid for one week only, and will be dated accordingly. To continue to participate in the offer, simply collect a token from the week in which you wish to dine. Pre-booking is essential and all bookings are subject to availability.

A special discount is available on selected items in the Bluebird and Le Pont de la Tour shops on presentation of the token.

Terence Conran, widely recognised as the UK's leading restaurateur has played a significant role in changing the way we eat out. He has created 11 unique restaurants, and this year will open two more in London and one in

THE INDEPENDENT	INDEPENDENT
Valid between Monday January	5th and Friday January 9th
Name	
Address	
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is voucher entitles the holder and all	members of their booking to



ZINC

1 J. 52 P. C. 15 M. High Robert Let Cath. SM 3 5 July 1970 1989 1990 Bluebird is an Epicurean experience for lovers of food and drink a large restaurant and bar, together with a food market, thef shop, traiteur, café and kourious dining club. Since opening last year, it has become a popular choice for those who want to enjoy good food and wine in a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. The menu combines the best classic and contemporary flavours and techniques, and readers can enjoy dishes from the grill, rotisserie and wood-fired oven.

Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.

an Friedrich Carle Tain Caracach, actom. 18 Shair Threster, Lee, Sen. SE: CYE. C77, 373 7659 Blue Print Café is a favourite destination for many in the city. Admired for its spectacular view, good food and relaxed atmosphere, the restaurant looks out over the Thames and Tower Bridge. Blue Print's food is simple and light reflecting influences from around the globe and the menu changes frequently to take advantage of seasonal produce. New for 1998, Blue Print Café have introduced a set lunch menu which independent readers can try at the special price of £10 for two courses. Also available early evening is a selection of great Spanish food and rustic wine for £10. Lunch 12noon - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm - 7pm.*

The centrepiece of the Butler's Wharf Gastrodrome, Le Pont de la Tour overlooks the River Thames and is situated by one of the most famous bridges in the world - it's namesake, Tower Bridge. The entire complex includes an elegant restaurant, lively bar & grill and series of splendid shops. At the Bar & Grill, the menu is a mix of regional French, Irish, British and Italian dishes in simple, generous style. For independent readers the chef has created a new set menu (£10 for two courses or £14.50 for three courses) full of classic Bar & Grill dishes. Lunch IZpm-3pm, Early evening supper 6pm -7pm.

<u> Махая 100 Мендев і Всевы, Цольки, МПР ВЕЕ, 10.71 ЭТ Мора</u> "When we opened Mezzo in September 1995, we wanted to make people feel good, to add to the quality of life in London and to bring something completely different to Soho," says Terence Conran. Described as the largest restaurant in Europe, Mezzo is in fact a collection of complementary, food related activities all gathered together under one enormous roof: Soho's only bakery, a patisserie, café and four bars, as well as two different restaurants - Mezzo and Mezzonine. Mezzo is reached by an impressive staircase which winds down through a dramatic double height space where the kitchens create a spectacular stage. The food is a fusion of east meets west, northern and southern hemispheres, where chef John Torode shows his passion for mixing ingredients with flair and innovation.

Lunch 12pm - 3pm, Early evening supper 6pm-7pm.

Denglise's William System Editional Legician Survivation of the Art 194 style Celebrating it's fifth birthday on February 14th this year, Quaglino's has been described as ".....the talk and taste of London, a place so polished and swanky it could only have come from Terence Conran." Vogue Entertaining Guide June/July 1993. Despite opening in the depths of the recession, this glarnorous restaurant has been one of London's most successful establishments. Inspired by the great brassieries of Paris, the menu is predominantly a mix of British, French and Italian dishes. Lunch 12pm-3pm, Early evening suppor 5.30pm-6.30pm.

Luis Barr C. Guill L. Holder Santes, Gl. Dept. a Salvet, Cristian, W.I.R. 703, 178, 077, 255, 3359. Zinc Bar & Griff is a lively and informal restaurant and bar, in the heart of London's West End. Just seconds away from the hustle and bustle of Regent Street, Zinc Bar & Grill provides an oasis from the West End frenzy, a place to meet friends for a quick drink, a light lunch or a relaxed dinner. The menu is simple and reasonably priced with the majority of dishes cooked on the grill and rotisserie, on view to restaurant customers. Exclusively at Zinc, readers will be able to enjoy three courses for installations. If no not a second course of the course of th just £10 between 12 noon and 7pm.*

Terms and conditions: To participane in the offer simply telephone the restaurant of your choice direct (from those listed above) to make your table reservation, identifying yourself as an independent diner, On arrival at the restaurant you should present your correctly dated token to qualify for the promotion. Tokens are only valid for the dates printed. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in the promotion. Pre-booking it essential and all bookings are subject to availability. Diners will not be able to participate in the promotion if they have not made a prior reservation. The offer entities the independent diner and all members of their booking to a two course function early evening supper (pre 7pm) at Mexzo. Bluebind, Le Pont de la Tour Bar & Grill, Quaglino's, Blue Print Café or Zinc Bar & Grill for Clor Price includes one side order against a specially prepared menu. The discount at the Bluebind / Le Pont de la Tour shops applies to selected purchases in store. The :neutre may change from time to time during the course of the promotion. The cost of the meal includes VAT and excludes drinks, coffee/tea, A discretionary service charge of 12.5% will be added to each ball. The offer is exclusive to independent readers and this offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and is non-transferable. Consun Restaurants Ltd tracking terms and conditions apply:

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Mineral groups suffer as metal prices take a pounding MARKET REPORT

Billiton were in the front line, tiouous slump in metal prices.

With little sign of any metals revival Rio fell a further 37p to 736p and Billiton 7.5p to 157p. Rio touched 1,109p last

amoog the smaller fry with Avocet Mining off 4p at 94p it touched 241p last year - and Reunion, down from 138p,

casing 6p to 85p. revival although bearish com- share in Europe and was 15 per meets continued to swirl coot overvalued SBC Warburg around, with the investment offered to take profits advice. house Henderson Crosthwaite Still, the setback was confined to cutting this year's crude price 4.5p at 614p as buyers moved in projection from \$19 a barrel to when the price retreated 12p. \$17.5. Positive noises from Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanley lifted British Petroleum

After the oil spill it was the turn 13p to 778p. However Enter- lowered its share rating to neu- process. Hambros put on 3p to Hoare Govett was said to be of mineral groups to take a prise Oil, Lasmo and Shell re-trail and cut this year's profit 255.5p. pounding. RioTinto and mained under pressure.

In busy trading Footsie With a 7.6 million trade at reflection the securingly con-suffered its first fall of the year. 270p adding to their woe, the Supporting shares were more—the price reached 521 p. DOSILIVO.

ing hlue chip, rekindling hopes recommendation, the price rose summer, Billiton was floated at it still hankers for a chance to 13p to 3135p. 220p in July and subsequently strike at its hard-pressed rival Safeway. The shares rose 6.25p There were casualties to 185.75p, a year's high, with Safeway managing a 3.5p gain to 345.5p.

Northern Rock, the building society turned back, was knocked off its pedestal by comments it Oils staged something of a is the most expensive banking

Rexam, the packaging and paper group, had an uncomfortable time as Merrill Lynch forecast from £220m to £205m.

off 40.3 points at 5.224.1. shares fell 1op to 275p. In 1995 Merrill gave Securicor a Asda was the best perform- friendly push with a huy

> Hambro Countrywide, the estate agent, was the hot takeover tip of the day. The shares bounded 11p to 115.5p as stories surfaced that the 52 per cent owned by Hambros, the

merchant bank being acquired

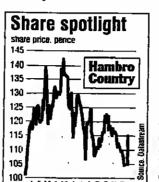
by Societé Générale, could be

on the move.

Hambros has said that as part of its break-up its Couotrywide stake will be distributed to its shareholders. Such a scheme could take six months to reach fruition and the yarn flowing around suggested an impatient bidder was seeking to short-cut the

Chemicals attracted attention. Albright & Wilson gained 9.5p to 155.5p on takeover talk and Hickson International was given a 7p speculative boost to 73p. Settlement of Courtaulds' long-runoing dispute over Lyocell fibre left the shares 266,5p.

1.5p down at 290p. General Electric Co fell 7.5p to 394.5 p as it started its £300m share buy-back and ABN Amro



Grid, 9p higher at 313p, re- Doncaster, a US group, picked flected buying for the special

dividend payment. advice oo Rank, off 3.5p to 344.5p, it has turned cautious on Northern Foods, down 1.5p to

Booker, the food group, continued to draw comfort from sound system, rose 3.75p to 73p; Warburg support, up 20p to 353.5p.

Ionica, the fledgiog telephone group, held at 303p as Warburg, the bank behind the heavily criticised 390p flotatioo, acquired 343,000 shares, quiries from hopeful licensees. lifting its stake to 4.33 per cent.

from Electronic Bootique hopes, up 22.5p to 320p. Printer added 1.25p at 49.75p. The video retailer achieved 70 per cent sales growth over 68.5p. Christmas. But caution from Dawson, the newspaper distributor, shredded the price

Triplex Lloyd, the engioeer. keen on the shares. National held at 272.5p as the bidder

up a 6 per cent stake. Zetters, the bingo and pouls Henderson repeated its buy group, hardened 7p to 158.5p after admining hid approaches had developed into talks although they were "of a very pre-

liminary oature". Verity, with a wafer-thin speculation intensified it was on the verge of clinching significant licensing deals. The group is taking part in a trade show at Los Vegas and, according to rumour. has received dozens of en-

Blick, the electronic group, A bullish trading statement made further headway on bid Fairway, which has signalled hid interest, rose another 3p to

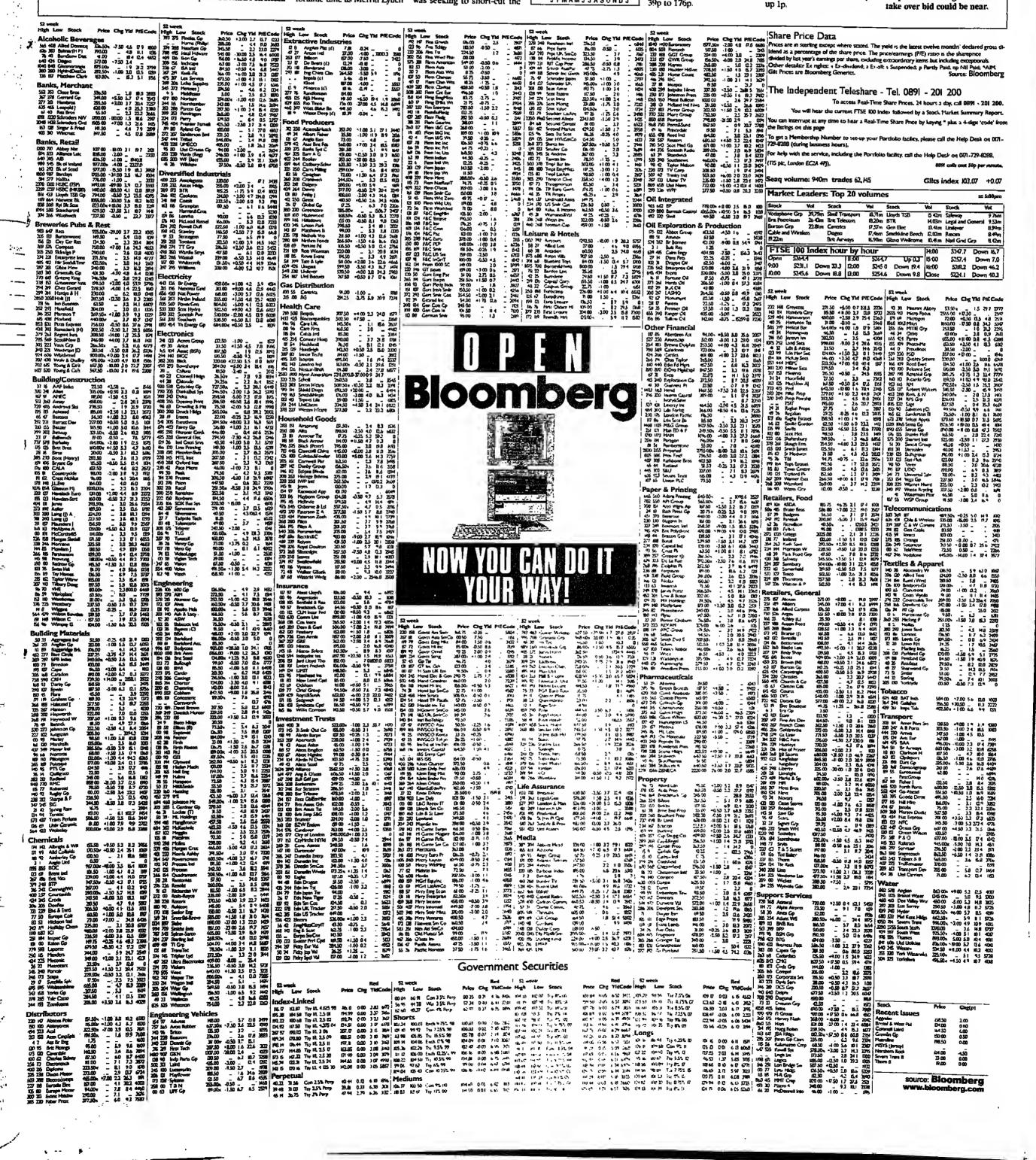
Jacques Vert, the troubled fashion group, returned from a two-month suspension at 22.5p.

TAKING STOCK

From 84.5p last month Fibernet, a blue-sky digital network group, has risen to 143.5p. NatWest Securities contributed to the advance. The analyst Mike Williams is enthusiastic about the fledgling group and sees its national network making £17m in 1999. Like many AIM companies Fibernet failed to live no to flotation hopes. Before the setback the shares were 184.5p.

Hopes Ilion's year's figures will be a shade firmer than indicated in November's profits warning lifted the shares 16.5p to 155p. The group said profits would be around £6.5m against hnpes of £8m. Last spring the shares were more than 400p.

Black Arrow, the office furniture group, is thought to be trading well. The shares, up 11.5p, are riding at a 114p peak. In snme quarters there is a sneaking suspicion the long rumonred take over bid could be near.



Don't take the slowdown story for granted just yet



KEVIN GARDINER ON REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

The British forecasting fraternity is ununimous in predicting that the UK economy will slow in 1998. Pessimists expect growth of less than 2 per cent, which given the likely strength of the economy as the year begins - implies near-recessionary conditions for much of the year.

Optimists, such as the Morgrowth of a little more than 3 per cent, a relatively modest deceleration from 1997s likely 3,5 per cent. But all of the 34 frequent forecasters surveyed by Consensus Economics in early December expect frequent forecasters such as land, the OECD and the IMF.

Such uniformity is rare - and unsettling. Groueho Marx didn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a memher, and in the realm of investment analysis, his instincts were risks in 1998 are surely not as one-sided as these collective

forecasts suggest. There are of course good, objective arguments for ex- assets - the forgotten side of pecting the economy to slow in the balance sheet - amount to the year ahead. Export growth seems likely to wilt as the strong pounds, compared to total borpound and Asian retrenchment bite. The increases in mortgage rates will make themselves felt more fully, and disposable in- prices have hit new highs - the

come growth will also suffer from the absence of last year's tax cuts, and from the small tax increases announced in July's Budget. The huilding society windfalls must also eventually fade into the rear-view mirror.

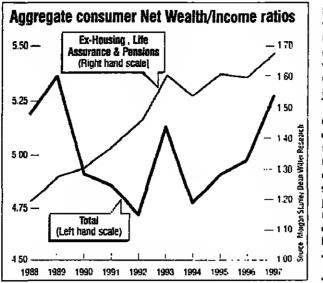
But a solid argument is no guarantee of an accurate forecast: our understanding of the forces which drive the economy is much less precise than our carefully articulated models and spreadsheets. A resurgence in consumer confidence, for example, could yet blow the slowdown scenario out of the water. And there are indeed reasons for consumers to be cheerful.

There has been much talk of a reformed UK consumer, cowed by the twin threats of excessive past borrowing and job insecurity. But in reality, the household balance sheet is not fragile, in aggregate, but dauntingly strong, while job security may actually be improving.

Consumer deht rose fivefold between 1980 and 1990, gan Stanley team, look for more than twice as quickly as incomes. And at no time since 1990 has the amount of debt fallen: it has continued to rise. though a little less rapidly than income. However, even after mortgage rates have risen by a fifth in the last year, the aggregrowth to slow, as do less gate interest hill is still running at levels, relative to incomes. the Treasury, the Bank of Eng- roughly half as high as those which in 1990 pushed the econ-

Moreover, much of the surge in borrowing during the 1980s was in effect a one-off response to the ending of credit and mortgage rationing, and to just as sound. The economic the sale of council houses: viewed in this context, and with the adjustment behind us, it looks less alarming.

Meanwhile. consumer three-and-a-half rowing of just over half a trillion pounds. As house prices



There has been no sign recent-

ty of another productivity

labour supply which occurred as

haby-hoomers and married

women entered the labour force

is now behind us. Measured un-

employment in fact peaked

more than 10 years ago, and

gin to rise once more it is un-

likely to rise as far as it did then.

turnover has risen sharply.

There is simply little support for

the wideh believed view that the

average worker spends less time

these days in any given job, to

a recent meeting organised by

the Centre for Economic Policy

Research, Simon Burgess of

the University of Bristol showed

that there has been little change

in job tenure since the 1970s.

the case a bit strongly, but with

the average time spent in a giv-

en job running at 18 years for

men, and 12 years for women.

and with both these figures lit-

tle changed since 1975, the ex-

istence of a new "hire and fire"

These figures are not as sur-

culture must be questioned.

"Jobs for life" may be putting

Nor is it the case that job

'miracle"; and the sharp rise in

ratio of aggregate net wealth to not have come as a surprise. personal income has now almost recouped the ground lost since 1989 (see char1).

Indeed, if houses, life assurance and pension funds are excluded from the calculation in an attempt to define a "core" measure of net wealth, the consumer balance sheet has never been stronger. What the Bank of even when it does eventually be-England described in the Eightics as a "glacier of liquidity" overhanging the economy is still largely unthawed; monetarists in particular should be sceptical at the neat City consensus for 1998.

As hinted above, this balance sheet strength is not being neutralised by high real interest rates: the opportunity cost of spending today, rather than tomorrow, is if anything rather low when judged against recent ex-

Meanwhile, with the labour market tightening steadily, the incidence of unemployment is now just half what it was in 1993. And whereas in 1993 there were roughly eight potential applicants for each recorded job opening, now there are probably fewer than two. In some areas and occupations, indeed, employers are finding it inhave recovered - and share creasingly difficult to recruit.

These developments should epicentre in the South-east,

and involved the professional service sector to a greater extent than did the 1980-81 episode (still the benchmark against which many of us from the Celtic and Northern fringes judge recessions).

lt also coincided with a more competitive environment in the civil service, media and academia. These are all areas which to a great extent dominate the day-to-day debate. But the unsung mass of workers are in practice much less exposed to these shifts; and it is still not uncommon for people to have been in the same job for as long as 30 or 40 years.

Even if turnover had risen sharply, insecurity needn't have risen with it: people often leave obs voluntarily. Conversely, holding the same job for a great length of time is no guarantee of happiness. But the tact that chattering-class wisdom can be so wrong about something so fundamental warns again against accepting the

Of course, none of the above need prevent consumers from feeling overburdened or insecure, li may be human nature to believe that the future will be worse than the past - "things ain't what they used to be "-even though the average household has never been as well off, in material terms, as they are today.

This hints perhaps at an existential unease better analysed with reference to the Brothers Karamazov than the writings of economists such as Kaldor, Kalecki or Keynes, But the financial markets and the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee would be well advised not to take the slowdown story for granted just yet. If consumer confidence were to rise to match households' material circumstances, 1998 could yet provide quite a surprise. Happy new year.

prising as they first appear. Kevin Gardiner is a senior The recent recession had its economist and executive director at Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



Sir Brian Pitman, the venerable Lloyds TSB chairman and doyen of high street bankers, has accepted his first ever non-executive directorship - with Michael Green's racy media outfit Carlton Communications.

Sir Brian, now 66, joined Lloyds way back in 1952, and gave up his chief executive post just last February to John Ellwood. Sir Brian's devotion to shareholder value is matched only be his appetite for cost-cutting and hranch closures, but this is unlikely to translate itself to Carlton's husiness strategy.

"Carlton is a very different company than Lloyds, and he could take the position because there will be no conflict of interest," said a Lloyds source.

A Carlton spokesman added: "We're obviously delighted to have him." Half of Carlton's business is in television, the rest in things like processing movie films and producing video cassettes. I look forward to spotting Sir Brian in The Bill. He'd make a cracking chief inspector.

Also at Lloyds, John Robson has retired as director of corporate communications after 11 years at the beim. A former Whitehall civil servant, Mr Robson aims to spend more time sailing. He is succeeded by Geraldine Davies, his former deputy.

GB Railways Group has lost its first finance director, just a year after winning the Anglia franchise (Norwich to Liverpool Street) and floating on AIM.

The company insists Simon Gunn was not oushed - "there is certainly not a row going on." The former chartered accountant is in line for a £75,000 pay-off due to his 12-month contract, according to GB Railways. A company spokesperson said: "Mr Gunn is an entrepreneurial type, who likes setting up businesses." She would not expand on his future plans.

Analysis describe the rail company's financial targets as "highly ambitious", and

the company has been touted on a number of occasions since its launch as a bid target for larger rivals.

GB Railways has brought in a temporary replacement for Mr Gunn, Alan Terry, who was formerly information services director for CPC, a food production company. GB says Mr Terry will "fill the breach until we can find an appropriate person with a knowledge of the railway industry".

Granville, the small London based merchant bank, has lost two long-time executives in quick succession. William Drake, a main board director who had been with the group for 17 years, left late last year "to pursue his own interests", according to Granville. John McCready, an analyst with Granville Davies, the stockbroking subsidiary, left at Christmas.

A spokeswoman for Granville said yesterday that "neither of them was forced out". She added that the departures were purely coincidental and unconnected to each other. Mr Drake, one of whose ancestors was the swashbuckling Sir Francis Drake, was working on Granville's investment portfolio before he left.

ENIC, the investment vehicle part-owned by Joe Lewis, the Bermuda-based millionaire, has appointed Gerard McSloy as finance director. And quite a chap Mr McSloy appears to be.

Not content with an MA in German literature and a diploma in accountancy, the 40-year-old Brit is fluent in Dutch and German, as well as speaking good French and Spanish, an awed colleague tells me. He's also a martial arts blackbelt, has captained the British Universities volleyball team and has 15 caps for Scotland in the same sport.

Whether he also has a cure for the common cold up his sleave and can split the atom, time alone will tell. For now Mr McSloy will help ENIC to build up its portfolio of European football clubs, which currently include Vicenza, AEK Athens and Slavia Prague, as well as an option over a quarter of Glasgow Rangers. The group is also courting Bordeaux.

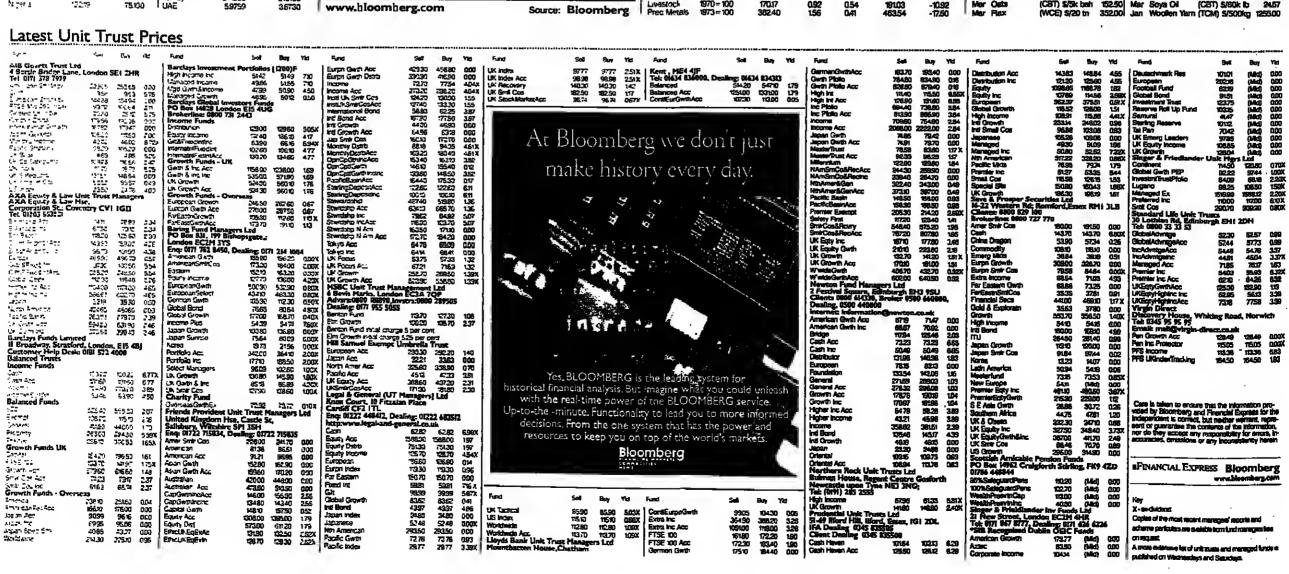
Warren Buffett loves banging on about how being America's second richest man doesn't stop him being just a plain ol' hamburgermunchin', cola-swillin' private investor. How comic, then, to read in an advert for Executive Jet in the latest edition of Forbes magazine that Mr Buffett's company, Berkshire Hathaway, owns a jet. "It more than pays for itself. That's why I recently changed its name from 'The Indefensible' to 'The Indispensable',"

There's more: "For my family, I bought a 25 per cent interest in Executive Jet's Netjets programme. And do they love it! ... My wife, Susie, came up for the name for this plane, The Richly Deserved'."

As F Scott Fitzgerald observed, the rich

Foreign Exchange Rates **Industrial Metals Interest Rates** Liffe Financial Futures 250% Prime 450% Discount Fed Funds 500% Spain 450% 10-d Repo 275% 11294 14791 9524 29658 12567 1 38090 08100 30303 33469 10000 15834 42452 07527 28192 72251 1268 1378 4145 1025 27039 84.734 4451 005487 350% Repo(Ave) 4.35% Lombard Australia 489 Belgum 354 Carreta 425 ECU 433 France 000 Germany 353 Italy 520 Japan 0.36 Niands 255 Spean 457 Sweden 437 Sweden 437 Stand 1.34 UK 5.08 Liffe FTSE 100 Index Option Other Spot Rates Money Market Rates Ontar Country Country Sterling Arrented Shard China Cooth Red Epi st Chana Humpau, India Indiaetha and Cheba 03850 41000 45000 35150 36412 165000 33850 52875 210100 36730 Treasury SEs LESOR Domestic Depos Eurostering Depos Erigible Bank Eas Sterling COs Eurodolfar COs 738 744 147 150 742 745 747 753 725 718 129 121 740 734 750 744 555 551 413 428 419 434 747 753 744 750 147 753 744 750 733 725 750 744 748 739 565 425 444 215.26 231.23 85.86 168.79 191.03 463.54 -20.79 -2.19 -2869 -968 -10.92 -17.50 www.hloomherg.com Latest Unit Trust Prices 251X | Kent , ME4 4JF 251X | Tel: 0434 834000, Deal 147 | Balanced Acc ConfEurGwthAcc

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THE IO DE S

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FLEEDS HAIRDICAR HURDLE

Controversially left out of last year's World Championships, Anthony Whiteman plans to get his own back this year and help put British middle distance running back on the map.

Mike Rowbottom reports.

It was absolutely typical of Anthone Whiteman's luck. His achievement in becoming the first British middle distance runner for seven years to win a global title coincided with another event which guaranteed him the mioimum of attention.

On the day the 26-year-old from Isleworth won the 1500 of the death of Princess Diana was announced.

For a few hours, the British team were unsure whether they C. would compete or not, but they evectually went ahead. After striding away to an easy win, Whitemao, who is studying sports science at Brunel University, halted his lap of hooour to bow to the Union Jack as a

perience in Sicily was one which nothing for granted. Whiteman, whose international career ooly began in earnest two years ago, hopes to turn to good advaotage this year.

said. "It was not so much the maybe a level below those I had been meeting regularly on the European circuit.

"It was the fact that I dominated the whole thing from the beginning of the compedition. It was always obvious that I had the chance to win comfortably, but I still had to deliver the victory. I regard it as a dress rehearsal for something higger."

That something is likely to be the European Champioometres gold medal at the World ships in Budapest towards the Student Games in Sicily, news end of August. "In the European Championships you oeed to stamp your authority early on," he said. "It becomes a real war of psychology. If I can go into a championship and click ioto the kind of feeling I had at the World Student Games again it will give me a big advantage."

That assumes that Whiteman will be picked for the European Championships. But although he and his rival, John Mayock, are pre-eminent in the event domestically, his experience of

out to be unfortunate, the ex- last year has taught him to take

the national coach."

son, it was a shattering blow.

had missed when he became the

Coc and Steve Ovett, running

3min 32.34sec in Moote Carlo

behiod the all-conquering

had done he broke down in tears.

"After all that had happened, I

minutes before I could speak. It

was a surreal experience for

me. With 120 metres to go I went

past Noureddine Morceli and it

was if everything was in slow mo-

tion." It was his highest point of

achievement in a sport where the

first marked family success was

his mother Ann. She started run-

just lost it," he said. "It was 10

Kenyan, Daniel Komen. When he realised what he

Whiteman's problems becan at the Stockholm Grand Prix five days before Britain's world championship trials, wheo he "I was very satisfied with the was bitten on the ankle by a way I performed there," he mosquito and suffered so uousually severe reaction after guys I raced against, who were starting a course of antibiotics. Two days before the trials be-

> NEW FACES FOR '98

ANTHONY WHITEMAN

gan he developed a flu-type virus and sought the advice of Britain's team doctor, Malcolm Brown, who told him not to run.

On the Monday after the trials, at which Mayock and Kevin McKay daimed two of the three 1500 metres places automatically, he rang the oational coach, Malcolm Arnold.

"I asked him how much I oecded to do to protect my place," Whiteman said. "I said if my position was in jeopardy I would run. He replied: 'It's not up to me to make a decision'."

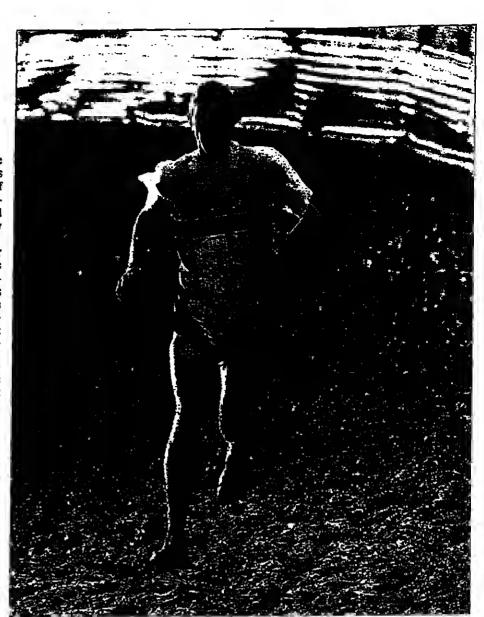
"So there I was, an athlete ning with him to make sure he oot knowing what to do, and I did his training properly and has gone on to become ooe of was receiving oo guidance from Britain's leading veteran distance runners, finishing second Whiteman returned to trainin her age category at the New ing and, a few days later,

Matthew Yates, who finished York Marathon. Less than a week later, after third in the trials, was given the he had made the pace for Haile third place for Athens after Gebrselassie's unsuccessful atachieving the qualification time tempt on the world 3,000 metres with 3min 36.36sec. For Whiterecord in Brussels, Whiteman's man, who had already becounroller-coaster career took ander the qualifying mark four other dip as he watched Mayock times by that point in the seamove ahead of him in the alltime domestic rankings with a A week after the World time of 3:31.87. The Yorkshire-Championships had ended, though, he gave Britain's selecman will clearly be one of his main rivals in Budapest, along tors an indication of what they with a strong Spanish cootingent led by the 1992 Olympic champfourth fastest Briton over 1500 metres behind Steve Cram, Seb

ion, Fermin Cacho. Whiteman, who won a European indoor silver medal in 1996 and reached the Olympie semi-final the same year, seems destined to struggle against the odds in his career. He is currently seeking a new shoe sponsor after being dropped by Nike, who, to put salt in the wound, have just taken oo Mayock.

"It's oothing against John persooally," Whiteman said. But it acts as one more motivation for me."

The omens for Whiteman in Budapest look promising - selection permitting.



CATTERICK

12.50 Ifallelsefalls 1.20 Feels Like Gold 1.50 Baher

2.20 Ham N'Eggs

HYPERION 2.50 Alpine Headway 3.20 Winter Belte

GOING: Soft, heavy or good to soft in places.

© Left-hand course, undustring and afram. Not suitable for the long-striding home.

© Course is, NW of town on ASISS. Derlington station 14m - bus service to course. AD-MISSION; Cub CT; "kittersafs ST; Course (250) (under tile free into all enclosures). CAR

M Humanood 12 hom 12 no.7%, kins Smith 10 from 86 numbers gives win ratio of 20.9%, M Humanood 12 hom 12 no.7%, kins S Smith 10 from 76 [13.2%]. Lungo 2 from 49 (18.4%). © LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 24 wins from 87 ricks gives 8 success ratio of 27.5%, R Gently 16 from 91 (17.8%). A Dobbin 13 from 92 (17.1%) B Storey 12 from 150 (8%). © FAVOURITES: 18 exist in 353 races (33.4%). VISOURITES: 18 exist in 353 races (33.4%).

12.50 LEEDS HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,000 added
2m 3f Penality Value £2.248

1 20.502 RUSTY REEL (b) (FI Heby) WG M Turner 8 12 0. A Thorston
2 60-35 BRANBUES WAY (85) (8F) Picyle E U Lones) Mis M Reveloy 8 11 10. P News
2 (1945 FAIEHALKMAR (13) (8F) (6Hst Challed) B Effort of 18 . C McCananack (5)
3 314 EALLELSEFAILS (5) Ohe Berbura Lungri L Lungo 10 11 7 . W Duviling (7)
5 Me84 GYMCARK (1048 (1953) (b) Gymcak Raungi B Humbe 8 0 8 . W W Duviling (7)
6 2 POUP WARD DUVINGWAY (13) (she D A Bossberg B Businish 12 10 10 . B Stamp
7 603-24 PERPÉTUAL LIGHT (22) (8F) (Four Point Parmestro) J.J Ouint 5 100. Fi McGratt (3)
8 331/3 VILPRAND (500) (8F) (Vibrano Parmestro) D McGrat 7 100 . R Stamp
6 declared

o weight: 10st, True weights: Wheatdrousey Set 120, People of Light Set List, Wareno Set Sib. 15: 11-4 Fatehaltheir, 3-1 Rosey Reed, 6-1 People of Light, Light Set List, Wareno Set Sib., 15: 11-4 Fatehaltheir, 3-1 Rosey Reed, 6-1 People of Light, 13-2 Wheatdrousey, 7-1 Hab-Compsoners or medium.

FORM GUIDE
FATEHALKHAIR would have wan his fifth mad at Sadgefield on Board Day but for falling sit the final hight. That inflowed moderate efforts sway from Sedgefield – he is yet to win anywhere else – but it also shows he is book in business after a break and that his goes on soft ground. Breat Elsion runs Fatehaldhair rather than Toshaba lials, who is on a hat-tuck. Rushy Reefa accord to Lord Rullah at Contain may not amount to much but was not a bad offort considering he missed last season. Rushy Reefa adult be on the way back and Andrew Thornton takes over from a conditional. Ratiestealis was a remote fourth behind Once More For Luck at Cartisle but he will come on for the run. Once More For Luck is transfer by Mary Reveloy, represented here by Breathies Way, Brambles Way was a bealen favourd in two claiming hundles in the eathern, so it is difficult to be confident about him back in a handicap, but Once More For Luck went into that Cartisle most after winning only weak non-handicap selens, and Brambles Way cernot be ruled out. Whatdidyousey was pulled up behind Justin Mac at Weltherty but his course-and-distance third of 15 behind Stonesby suggests he has the ability to make his presence fet now he is in a handicap carrying a low weight.

Selection: FATEHALIGHAR

| 1.50 | BRADFORD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) | 22,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 12,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 12,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 12,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 13,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 14,500 added 2m Pertality Value E1,995 | 15,500 added 1m Pertalit

FORM GIUDE

Bill Turner has wan selfors this season with Weather Wise and its Grand (twice) and BillPALA might be the answer here ofter running Zahsatie to half a length at Bangor. There was plenty of cut when Impala won a diagner at Epsom in July, so he should be at right on the ground, and if he needs to irreprove to make the most of the weight he gots from Baher and Scaraben he might do just that. He has run only three times over hurdes.

Even with his rider's attendence, Beher was furnibared with 12st 2to when third to Opera Fan and One Stop here last week, when out-of-form Klerchem was talled oil last of six firishes. Beher carries a reansgeable 11st 8to today and, with the 8to pull, can make more of a race of it with One Stop. She can who a soler judged on last week's effort. Scaraber ran some far races on the Flat test year even if he did end up refusing to anter the stalls at Redustrin October. The fact that he cost only 2000grs, out of Steve Kattewistic yerd in a bit off-putting but he is dropped in class and his ability to get through the stop of the putting that he is dropped in class and his ability to get through

2.20 BARNSLEY NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m Persaity Value £2,921

4844 HAN MESS (13) (D) M H D G Richyl M Harmond 7 to 0 _____ R Gentity 2 costs - PCK SPARROW (F182) (CD) (B lock) B Machagour 8 to 8 _____ R Storey 3 costs - PCK SPARROW (F182) (A) (D Caphard) G M Moore 7 to 7 _____ X Beatley 4 cs4+9 Moos P Mockent (sp 64s F T Wallor) F Wallon 8 to 1 _____ T Read 5 cs7+9 Moos Robert (sp 64s F T Wallor) F Wallon 8 to 1 _____ T Read 5 cs7+9 DAINTES AMOUR (s) (Micharly Racry Burstel 27) E Asidon 7 to 0 _____ X Smith 7 to 7+00 BALLYKISSAMGEL, (st) (D J Allor) M R Portris 7 to 0 _____ R Reppire 7 declared - PC Moore R Reppire 7 declared - PC Moore R Reppire 24 Harm Weight 2-1 Drugons Bay, 7-2 Mone Property 10 Drugs By Might, 14-1 Fcs. Sparrow, 20-1 Dentim Audoux, 33-1 Bellythausingsi FORM GUIDE.

A fair fourth to Red Manauder from 1270 back at Hestram, HAM NYEGOS tribad up in a

A fair fourth to Red Marauder first time back at Hechain, HAM N°EGGS trotted up in a soft race at Weltherby last time and can give away the weight here. Last February, in a hundleagh burdle at Weltherby, Ham N'Eggs control title on history ground and was beat-en less than two lengths by Durana. He is in a less competitive chase today, has plenty of from for improvement over traces and filldry Herminach has von of beater hare recently with the involves Phace Of Salmin (which) and Joe legger, Dragons Bay is the chintous choice to make a state of 15 salmin (which) and Joe legger, Dragons Bay is the chintous choice to make a state of 15 salmin (which) and Joe legger, Dragons bay is the chintous choice to make a state of 15 salmin share can be accorded to Corticus in the nortest franciscop at the last meeting. On the same city, Mose Pagaliant finished third to Arthur Boe in the movice chose. He is not without a chance a pastern finished third to Arthur Boe in the movice chose. He is not without a chance a set which on the Brine MacClegger-trained inglestrains. Use inglestrates, Fox Sparrov is control for the one that the and in well be the ground, but he lost his way over hurdles lest session and it remains to be seen if the change of stable has everetored him up.

Selection: HAM NEGGS A fair fourth to Red Marauder first time back at Head

2.50 HALIFAX NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m

FORM GUIDE

Jimmy FitzGerald has a good record in these races and should have the answer with GUEENSWAY. A convincing wranter of his only start last essaon, at Parth in May with cut in the ground, Queensway did not get the result connections expected when best-on by Sweep Gently at Donosator leat month on his reappearance, but the wriner locks useful, a fact underload when he followed up soon eiter over hurdes, Kaban Scamp is out of a winning staying funder and gave every indication there was better to come with her fourth behind subsequent vermer. Over The Back here in November, The third, Oranga Imp, the lengths shoul, was subsequently six lengths admit of stationnis Queensway at Donosater, so connections know where they stand.

Selection: Queensway

Swan has dispensation to attend Court

The favourite for Saturday's big race has at last got a rider. Richard Edmandson reports.

Considering just about every other jockey in the British archipelago had been connected with Commanche Court, the favourite to keep Leopardstown's Ladbroke Hurdle at home oo Saturday, it may have been inevitable that the ride would ul- chance, will go on the ground timately go to Ireland's and is in good form. I've been

perpetual champioo jockey. would have missed the ride if Sandown's meeting was called off, thus liberating Tony McCov.

Thast The Spreece, He asked the trainer and owners of the horse for dispensation to desert their representative and got the same pleasing response when he tried his telephone manner on Ted Walsh. "I contacted Ted late last night and he came back to say that would be fine," Swan said yesterday. "Tve ridden a few winners for him but I've never riddeo Commanche Court.

"He has an outstanding second in the race for my father Normao Williamsoo and and ridden a third. I was meant uby Walsh, the son of Com- to ride Atooe but took somemanche Court's trainer, Ted, thing else and I hope I've got it overnight declaration of jockeys have riddee the gelding but both right this time. The ground will is in operation. It is anticipated are in the sio bin. The claimer be against Toast The Spreece. it will go ahead despite the go-Garrett Cotter theo became a I'm very grateful to the owners ing being heavy, with more rain consideration, though he too and Aidan for letting me off."

This is not to say that Swan has automatically jumped not only after clerks of the course go only oo to a favourite but also into the winners' enclosure. much for Charlie Swan, who was There is a chance element in surfing through the mud is the

due to partner Aidan O'Brien's every race, but while an average contest is of roulette proportions, the Ladbroke is more like the National Lottery.

> the final turn oo Leopardstown's inside track. Jockeys theo have to launch their mounts into a melée of limbs and backsides. Where they stop nobody knows. This is consequently a scramble which is not conducive to

short-priced winners. Five of the justified single-figure odds. Saturday's card is expected to

to come. But theo this is Ireland, where meetings are called off out in punts and lose their pole. One entry unlikely to be

had been reduced to as low as 11-1 from Monday's price of 33-1. Noel Meade's mare has The balls go into the tank at damaged a hind leg. Some satchels then already

well-backed Fishin Joella, who

have a oote lining, though ooe firm will return stakes on oonrunners placed after Monday's forfeit stage. Ladbroke's munificence is well known at this contest, where their largesse to friends and publicists is oot last eight victors have started at necessarily commensurate with 20-1 or more. Only one winner that which they show the geothis decade, The Illiad in 1991, eral public for the rest of the year. The shining knights are oow banding back funds to can have brought this immense

geoerosity oo? George Akins, an independent bookmaker, has offered 1-3 that Ladbroke's takenver of Coral will win Government backing and go 9-4 that it will not. Its market formers note that Ladbroke's shares have risen since the deal was mooted.

LINGFIELD (AW)

All this uncertainty was too

12.30 Palisander 1.00 Paint It Black 1.30 Friendly Brave (nb) 2.00 Flight 2.30 MULTI FRAN-CHISE (nap) 3.00 Just Another Time 3.30 Tarry

GOING: Standard STALLS: St. tro - publishe rest - inside.

GOING: Standard STALLS: 15, tm - outside; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low in spirits.

Equitack surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

Course in SE of town on B2028, ADMISSION: Members ETS,
Parity Enclosure DS, CAR PARIC Club ES; remainder free.

LEADRYS TRANSERS: G I. Moore 34-399 (337%), M Johnston
50-270 (85%), R Hannon 43-312 (35%), R O'Sulfiven 35-280 (25%),

LEADRYG JOCKEYS: A Clark 61-605 (121%), B Sandare 54-617
(74%), S Vinitaroff 4-296 (137%), D Sigge 32-372 (85%),

FAYOURITES: 659-1699 (33%),
BLINGERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.00 RED GAUNTLET SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) 52,500 added 77

1.30 GUY MANNERING CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £3,750 added 5f

BETTING: 11-4 Meter Reider, 2-1 Pet 4-1 Anolato, 8-1 Gi La High, 20-1 Ple 2.00 QUENTIN DURWARD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 3YO 1m

- 8 declared -SETTING: 2-1 Sweet Supposin, 4-1 Princess Of Hearts, Multi Frant 6-1 Billackie, 6-1 Mr Speaker, Wag Of A Prayer, 14-1 Four Of Speaker, in 3.00 WAVERLEY HANDICAP (CLASS D) 55,000 added 3YO 6f 26:1-2 JUST ANOTHER TIME (9) (CD 9F) J Berry 9 7 .C. Lowfler (5) 4
SUSGO - SADA (53) C Dayle 9 7 ... S. Sanders (7) 1
CQ4GG - FLAME TOWER (7) F Honoro 9 4 ... P Dobbe (7) 1
CQ6 - TRIESLE TIETRI (33) F Mildon 8 13 ... A Clerk 5
6005-0 LEGAL LARK (7) (D) F Howing 8 11 ... J Claffer 3
- 5 declared -

BETTING: 2-1 Just Another Time, 5-2 Seds, 3-1 Flame Tower, 11-2 Tre-3.30 IVANHOE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,000 added 1m 5f

OCIASS E) £3,750 added 5f

OCIASS E) £4,750 adde

Prospects brighten for Sandown card

Saturday's feature meeting at Sandown, where the Grade One Tolworth Hurdle and Mildmay Cazalet Memorial Handican Chase are the main events. looks likely to beat the wet weather. Racing would not have beeo possible yesterday but the

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Palisander (Lingfield 12.30) NB: Ham N'Eggs (Catterick 2.20)

clerk of the course, Andrew Cooper, said: "The course is much improved. There are one or two parts that are very salurated, but the overall prospects are encouraging."

Prospects are not so good for Saturday's other turf meetings at Warwick and Haydock. Warwick will inspect at 2.30pm today, while Haydock inspect at 2pm. Haydock's clerk. Philip Arkwright, said: "We've had a wet day and the forecast is bad."

Today's card at Market Raseo and tomorrow's at Exeter were abaodoned yesterday. At tomorrow's other turf meeting, Towcester, there will be ao inspection at 8.30am today.

RACING RESULTS

MUSSELBURGH 12.40: 1. GOSPEL SONG (8 Harding) 5-1; 2. Mental 13-6 lav; 3. Bedge of Fame 11-4. 13 ren. 1/s. hd. (A Whitans, Hamck). Total: 9550; £120, £130, £280 Dual Forecast:

2510 Computer Straight Forecast En.57. That: 1.10: 1. STAKIS CASINOS BOY (E Calagram) 6-4 fav; 2. Recruitment 8-1; 3. Master Hyde 9-4, 5 ran. 7, 11/4 (B Elison. Consett, 7cter 5220; 530, 5220, 7:50 Dual Forecast \$1000 Computer Straight Forecast:

7-4 fev; 2. Constown Boy 5-1, 3. Up For Rengome 5-1 7 ran. 7. 13 (C Grant Billing-ham) Total \$1.60, \$110, \$450. Dual Forecast

2650. Computer Straight Forecast: 22,72. Tr-cast: 22559. NP: The Shy Padre 2.10: 1. SPRUNG RHYTHM (N Willemson) 6-8 lav: 2. What's Your Story 14-1; 3. Young Saven 10-1 6 ran. 9, 7. (K Bailey, Upper Lambourn), Tota: £2:10; £100, £930, Dual Forecast £530, Computer

Straight Forecast: £13.56 2.40; 1. SALEM BEACH (Al Moloney) 7-2: 2. Hobbs Choice 64 fav; 3. Monkey Wench 41 6 ran. NK; 1 (M Tochunter, UI-Wench 4-1 6 rain. AR, 1 (M IDDRIFTS, Ur-version), Totale 2545; 2190, 1210. Dual Fore-cast: 2560 Computer Straight Foreclath; 5745. 2.16: 1, ARCTIC SANDY (B Storey) 15-1; 2. Singling Sand 11-8; it say; 3. Moonyman 11-8 it lies. 4 rain. 12, 6. (J Oiver, Hawick), Total: \$1380. Dual Forecast: £730. CSF; £3584.

3.40: 1. SIKANOER A AZAM (N Wilgreson) 3-1; 2. Flutterby Lady 20-1; 3. Woodfield Gale 4-1.9 ran, 7-4 tay Enn Alley (5th) 1%, 1% (C Grant, Billingham). Teles: \$410; \$410, \$210, \$210 Dual Forecast £1990 Computer Strengt Forecast: £5463. Tno: £2020.

Placepoit £16890, Quadpoit £11010 Place 6; £7102, Place 5; £5219, WOLVERHAMPTON 1.00: 1. MONOFIANIA (S Righton) 5-1; 2. Run Or Bust 6-1; 3. Honey Storm 9-2. 13 ran. 4-1 far Gurraf Shi, 1; 7. (J Span-ng, Alcoster) Tota: 0490; 0190, 1440, 0190. Dual Forecast: £1330. Computer Straight

Forecast: \$35.08. Tho: \$80.30.

2.00; 1. ANONYM (O Peers) 7-4 tav; 2. Bongo 7-2; 3, Loch Style 8-1, 6 ran. 3½, 5; (J.L. Byrs, Thinkt) Total: 22.70; £150; £140; £250; Duel Porecash £800; CSF; £803; £30; 1, IMP EXPRESS (Date Gibson) 10-1; 2. Aljaz 9-2; 3. Hillions Executive 7-1 12 ress. 4-1 fev Sue Me (4th). 1%, htt. (P Fei-gett, Lieburn). Toler (2:27). PMO (1:36, 1:30). Dual Forcest: (2:35). Computer Straight Forcest: (2:52). Tricast: (2:259). Tric-

26570, NR: Sik Cottage.

Forecast: £T156.

1.30: 1. BAWSIAN (T Williams) 2-1; 2. Prince Aehleigh 5-1; 3. Boulevard Rouge 12-1.5 ran. 11-10 lay Primary Colours (4th).

2.24 U Eyrs, Thirst Total \$220, \$100, \$240.

Dual Forecast: £22.40. Computer Straight

3.80: 1, SWAN HUNTER (3 Miligan) 11-4 (30: 1. TIME TO FLY (Mas A Elsey) 7-2; far; 2. Mr Fortywhrius 3-1; 3. Alsehib 3-1 (2. Militar's Double 4-1; 3. Utile flore 10-1 9 (2. Mi ETD/O CSP: ET256 Tricest 52754 Tric: \$530 8,36: 1, ETHBAAT (A Clark) 9-2; 2, Cee-N-K evens lav, S. Soldier Cove 6-1, B nan. 114, 44. (M Heach-Elis, Viroughton). Total: 6410; 6140; 6140; 6190; Dust Forecast: 8420.

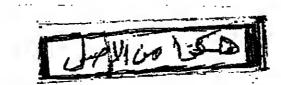
CSF: 1857. 4.00: 1. SEANCHAI (Mr.J Crowley) 83-1; Place 6: £38.73. Place 5: £1750. 2. Eithe Hope 15-8 lin; 3. Young Sen 20-1 10 ran. Nr. 2. (P Feigals, Listum). Total: 65740; £720, £150, £380; Duel Forecast: ETR200 CSF: E9050 Tricsec £129977. Trio: not work Following a stewards' inquiry, the

Oual Forecast £810 Computer Straight Fore-cast £1960 Tricast £12745 Tric: £2830 Jackpot: not won local of £3,616,73 certified forward to Lingseld today).
Piecapet: \$28.00. Quedpot: \$4.20.

 A punter at Musselburgh yesterday had a £35,000 windfall after a successful gamble on Stakis Castnos Boy. The fearless gambler immed on £20,000 - 8 wager usu-

prestige Flat meetings - at 7-4 and hardly suffered an arrious moment as Stakis Casinos Boy bolted in. Bookmakers were left severely wounded as several other four-figure bets were also recorded on the gelding. Stakis Casinos Boy is owned by the Brighton-based Ashley Carr Racing, a private racing service, But Ashley Carr insisted: "I didn't back the horse and I'm trying to find out who did."





You do not have to be much of a being embarrassed by ambitious football historian to know that the opponents who have no respect for other such startling events - espe-FA Cup is best served by sensational reputations. Fight for the right (to cially their own humiliation at Herehappenings. Imperfect adaption is prove superior status) is an in- ford United in 1972 - is possibly one the essence of its tradition.

ly simple as it was in the fourth round sure that it will fully register. 49 years ago when Sunderland, Drawn away against Manchester always possible." United in the next round, Yeovil lost 8-0 in front of an 81,000 crowd.

familiar terrain and the threat of al home in 1971.

struction that springs immediately of the reasons why Newcastle Unit-The plot remains as marvellous- to mind, but coaches can never be ed want their fourth-round tie

thrown out of their stride on a cel- History of the E4 Cup, published last Football Association should insist ehrated slope, were defeated 2-1 by year, Bryon Butler writes: "Nothing that the match is played as drawn. Yeovil Town, who were sixth from the is closer to the heart of the tournahottom of the old Southern League ment than its giant-killers. They are must not obscure the probability that and 5,000-1 in the overall betting. lustrous proof that the impossible is Stevenage's chairman, Victor Green.

It was possible for Colchester Frotball has changed a great deal in the Football League and includbut despite years of devoted research ed six free transfers when they defor the apprehension caused by un- FA Cup favourites, Leeds United. sion.

The lingering memory of that and against non-League Stevenage Bor-In his The Official Illustrated ough switched to St James' Park. The

The moral uproar over this issue would not be so resolutely opposed to giving up home advantage (as the United, who were positioned 75th Vauxhall Conference club did last ham City) if he was not looking at no sovereign remedy has been found leated the First Division leaders and the £150,000 put up by Sky televi-



Also, if Sky's involvement raises sentment against Newcastle's pre-displaying an arrogance at best and

FA Cup's enduring fascination is be-public relations," she said.

ory of those who died.

again the question of who is running people who seldom see top-class self-interest," she added. football in this country - one to football other than on television have which everyone with the game at been thinking about what the FA for tradition than has been evident heart should pay serious attention. Cup means to them. Their cause was in their myopic employers, the Newyear when drawn against Birming- - this is not what a number of peo- taken up yesterday by Monica Hart- castle players, most notably John ple are understandably going on land, who is the deputy chairman of the National Federation of Football If not entirely clear in their re- Supporters' Clubs, "Newcastle are turning out at Stevenage,

Nabody is entitled to overlook about clubs from different worlds are allowed to do it, then good luck the effect Heysel and Hillsborough meeting in circumstances that give to them." had on Kenny Dalglish, but for hope to the humble, of providing with fears for the safety of specta-member for the rest of their lives, tors if Slevenage are allowed erect whatever the outcome. "Sadly, to temporary scating insults the mem- Newcastle United, though hopefully not their embarrassed supporters, During all this, I expect that many it appears to be all about money and

> Sensibly, showing more respect Barnes, do not appear to have been made nervous by the prospect of

"Nobody should stand in the

sumption, they may sense that the at worst an almighty ignorance of way of their decision to play at home, for whatever reason," he said. "If Hartland spoke about romance, that's what they want to do, and they

Shortly before Colchester record-Newcastle to link those horrors supporters with a day they will re- ed that famous victory over Leeds, their manager, Dick Graham, spoke the following words to his players: "We, ourselves, little old Colchester, are taking on probably the greatest team in Europe. We may never see them again, but it's going to be something you will remember all your lives. And, you know what, I think we can win."

For the sake of the FA Cup and, assuming that Stevenage's ground is safe, Newcastle should be told to clear off and get on with what the draw served them.



Leicestershire's Darren Maddy powers his way to 202 in the England score of 402 for 4 dec in the tour match against Kenya at the Ruaraka Sports Club in Nairobi yesterday

Fraser setting an example

Angus Fraser is keeping England's younger fast bowlers busy between the tropical rainstorms in Antigua. He has had Dean Headley. Chris Silverwood. Ashley Cowan and the more experienced Andy Caddick swimming out into the Caribbean, sprinting in shuttles and bowling on concrete roads to build up the necessary stamina to perform consistently in the West Indies.

But with the ground at the Caribbean Cricket Centre resembling the "Cowdenbeath" goalmouth" in the words of the coach. David Lloyd, Fraser has devised his own fitness sched-

by Fraser's unselfish input as he pass on his knowledge. himself is also competing for a place in the First Test in Jamaica,

which marts on 29 January. given an example from his experience." Lloyd said. "You have to put the work in because bowling fast out here is hard. You have to be fitter and do more work than the rest of the team because of the nature of the tour.

"Gus is a bloke who is a nononsense performer and dedipeople who keep knowledge to themselves, and look after themule to keep the bowlers sharp. selves. Gus is determined to play Montego Bay on Friday week. sharing in a 140-run stand for

Lloyd is particularly pleased himself, but he's also happy to

given the day off vesterday as the Zimbabwe tain lasted down as its hordest "Having Gus work with the and longest since they arrived on bowlers has been brilliant. He's Saturday. Ironically, the authorities were so concerned about the parched state of the ground last week that they pumped 45,000 gallons of water on to it. little knowing that Antigua's long drought was about to come to a dramatic end.

England have two days of nets booked for Sabina Park. cated to what he does. There are Kingston - the venue for the opening Test - before going into their first match of the tour at

Atapattu in command as Sri Lanka stage recovery

The England squad were Sri Lanka 265-4 v

Sri Lanka's Marvan Atapattu hit a career-best unbeaten 129 to help his side reach 265 for 4 on the opening day of the first Test against Zimbabwe at the Sagiriya stadium in Kandy yesterday.

Sri Lanka won the toss, but Sanath Jayasuriya and Roshan Mahanama both quickly fell to Heath Streak. With two wickets down and only 33 runs on the board. Atapattu lifted Sri Lanka with a splendid effort.

the third wicket with Aravinda de Silva, who made a rapid 75.

Anapatio & second Test cen tury included 17 fours, three of which came in one over from the spinner Paul Strang.

ZEMBASWE: *A O R Campbell, G W Prover, B J Perma, M W Goodwin, 1A Flower, C B Wishest, HM Streak, PA Strang, A R Whittelf, A G Huckle, B C Strang. Unpires: B C Coursy and M J Krichen.

Kenyans protest to Lord's

The Kenyan Cricket Associa- sociation should rule on the distinn is to send official notification to Lord's of its protest at the interpretation of the rules to decide Sunday's one day in

ternational against England A. The match was awarded to England on a faster scoring rate after a tropical rainstorm halted their victory chase 31 runs short with 4.3 overs remaining. But the Kenyans believe the calculations made were incorrect and, after a full meeting of the KCA Board yesterday, they have decided to send a fax to the England and Wales Cricket Board with their complaint.

They claimed the regulations dictate that the home aspute and want a response from

day international. If the boards fail to reach agreement, England are entitled to appeal to the International Cricket Conference, but are expected to accept the Kenyans' interpretation - leaving the A team needing victory on Saturday to seal the one-day series.

England by tomorrow - hefore

Saturday's third and final one-

Yesterday, Kenya slumped to 154 for 8 after England had declared on a total of 402 for 4 when a rainstorm ended play 90 minutes early on the second day of the three-day match at the Ruaraka Sports Club, Nairohi.

Falt: 1-48, 2-235, 3-297, 4-380. Did not but: A F Gles, J Ormand, 1C M W Read, D A Coster, P M Hutchcon. Sowing: 54 5-0-53-0, Angara 11-2-46-0, Shah O4-2-50-2, Karm 21-4-6-1: Deen 4-0-27-0; Odumbe 7-1-29-0, Page 5-0-37-0; Teals 2-0-18-0; Onyungo 11-2-61-1; Vacher 1-0-12-0 K Origanya 1 (See 1) Kangas KENTA - First Indings KK Ottero Bw b Harchson -H Vedfar b Hutchson -H Stah c Glep b Esham M Odumbe c Firstell b Orma S Titato C Knight b Gaes -1 Sub b Esham P Parel b Esham -A Kanm c Ormand b Gles C Overson part rul Extres (52 rb2) Total (for 8, 47 overs) _______154 Faft 1-1, 2-12, 3-44, 4-92, 5-92, 6-719, 7-151, 8-153 Bowling: Ormand 14-5-34-1, Hutchison 9-0-29 Cosker 9-2-48-0, Ealingra 10-3-29-3, Giles 5-()-13-2

BASKETBALL

Bannister reinforces lets

Alan Bannister is bringing his considerable size to shon: up the Budweiser League challenge of Chester Jets, who have been hit by injuries to four key players, including three of their Americans.

sportsman, has returned after two years playing on the Con-

Mike Burton, the Jets coach, said of the 30-year-old Bannister: "He's a hig. big signing for the rest of the season. us. Alan and I go back a long way we are pleased to have him. We tract. have problems at the moment."

Jets' former England in-

tinent. He last played in Eng- ed his knee last month, dam- next, say they will fight to keep land for the Newcastle Eagles. aging the joint that had been him. operated on earlier in his career and the club fear he may miss cos' chief executive, said that

and I first coached him as a 17- Jets temporary support, howyear-old. He will bring a new dimension to the league as people—out of work following the col- ; we will be enforcing," he said. will have to adjust to facing lanse of his Austrian club and "Wendell knows that," someone of his height. Alan is in his agent is trying to find anshape after playing in Austria and other lucrative Continental con-himself a new club without the

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos ready to block Sailor's proposed move to Wigan

Wigan face a battle with the ternational Dave Gardner Brishane Broncos to get pulled a hamstring and Amer- : Wendell Sailor into their ican Corey Jackson injured his ; colours before the year 2000. groin in Saturday's defeat at The Australian Test winger was Derby Storm and they join unveiled as a Wigan player for The 7th 5in Bannister, re- Americans Ricardo Leonard the 1999 and 2000 seasons this putedly Britain's tallest-ever and Sean Bell on the injury list. week, but Brisbane, who have Bell's problem is causing him under contract for this greatest concern. He dislocat- | year and an option on him for

> Shane Edwards, the Bronthere was no release clause in Bannister may only bring the Sailor's contract with the club. "He is with us this year and we

Sailor flew to England to find - Richard Taylor of his own manager. Edwards ex- option clause in court.

pressed his anger at Wigan negotiating with the player without any reference to the Broncos.

Brisbane bave a record of allowing players to move on when they feel the time is right. being linked in Australia with But they blocked Kevin Walters' attempt to move to North Queensland last year and made it clear that they have no Steve Menzies. London are intention of letting Sailor, who

There is lingering had blood 1994 World Club Champi- and Australia, has also been onship in Brisbane, a game for mentioned. which Wigan claim not to have been paid in full. That could make it even less likely that Bris-1999, although the player has hinted that he would be preknowledge of the club or even pared to test the legality of the

The alternative is that Wigan fans would have to wait until the millennium to see him in their

side. He would still be only 25. The London Broncos are one of the few other players who ranks with Sailor as a matchwinner the Test second row close to finalising the signing of is only 23, depart prematurely. one of the world's best props. Mark Carroll, and Menzies, between the two clubs over the his team-mate for both Manly

The Broncos' chief executive, Tony Rea, said: "I know where the name has come from, bane will release Sailor for but I wouldn't expect to see him at London this season."

Menzies has been a prodigious try-scorer for both club and country and ambitious

London have put down a marker for him, if and when he wants to come to Britain.

Top Australian players no longer want to come to England when they are past their best," Rea said. "They want to come when they are at their peak."

Eric Ashton has resigned as chairman of St Helens, citing machinations by other board members as his reason for leaving. The former Wigan and Great Britain captain has been in the chair at Knowsley Road cut out to elbow Toshiba past for four years, but said: "I can'l Krantz, going for his second leg work with people I can't trust." : win. Current predictions are He is replaced by Tom Ellard.

Warrington's new Australian booker. Danny Farrar, is to take over as club captain from Paul Sculthorpe, who has been according to Councr. sold to Saints.

SAILING

Krantz keeps up pressure

Auckland, the self-styled City of Sails, wanted to welcome one of its own. Grant Dalton, as the to breathe down the neck not winner of the fourth leg of the just of Chessie Racing hul Whithread Round the World Race from Sydney - but Merit Cup was way out of touch with the leaders yesterday, with Gunnar Krantz ahead in Swedish Match by more than 100 miles as an oscillating wind spread the little toothless. If he maintains across Tasman Sea.

Dennis Conner has his work that while the run into Auckland is down the coast, the sailing could be upwind, and Krantz's boat looks good in that mode,

Piling on the miles last night - Dave Hadfield was Paul Cayard's EF Lan-

eighth to fifth and was starting Merit Cup. too.

Wondering what to do next was Lawrie Smith, out of touch and in sixth place. His purple yacht carries the image of a shark but is currently looking a this position he will drop to seventh overall, last of the truly competitive boats. Krantz is expected to cross the finish line at Orakei Wharf tonight.

Stuart Alexander

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Agran and Agrange Park Strain Stra

Boyd furious with referee for enforced break from Celtic campaign

Tom Boyd, the Celtic captain, ban which takes in League sessment of how he and his ning ways at home to Aberdeen any service it's impossible to the Bhoys would prove them there until the end of the sea-Hugh Dallas for a three-match

The Scotland international defender revelled in a more attacking role during last Friday's 2-0 Old Firm win against Rangers at Parkhead, But a late booking for what Dallas adjudged to be a foul on Paul Gas- is a disappointing factor, but 16-point barrier.

That means that although he can play at Motherwell on Saturday, from the following Fri-

and Aberdeen as well as a Scotlish Cup third-round match against Morton.

"There is not much I can do about the suspension. If referees decide to book you for perfeetly fair challenges, there is not much you can do," he said. "It batteries which I never really got in the summer."

Firm league defeat for almost three years. The Danish international was stunned at the way Rangers offered so little resistance to a resurgent Celtic.

Only goalkeeper Andy Goram was exempt from Laudrup's outspoken verdict on a that was no excuse for our permatch which could yet have a formance last week. coigne took Boyd past the maybe gives me a hit of a rest major bearing on whether and a chance to recharge my Rangers achieve a record 10th consecutive title.

Now Laudrup hopes his side Brian Laudrup, the Rangers can react positively to their problems in getting the ball forday he begins a three-game striker, offered a damning as- derby serback and return to win-

on Saturday.

He said: "Celtic were by far the hungrier side last Friday and showed more desire than us to win the match. Derby matches are normally very competitive and there is not often a great deal of good football played, but

In the whole of the second half we failed to string three passes together and that is not acceptable. We had terrible

create chances.

People say the Celtic defence was terrifie, and they did play well, but we made it easy for them because our ball control and passing were so poor. It is vital that we address the problems which hindered us at Parkhead and contributed to our own downfall."

Laudrup admitted it was not the first occasion Celtic have got the better of their Glasgow rivals in recent times. The 28year-old conceded he sensed it ward and if you are not getting was only a matter of time before

selves men again and end a run of 10 games without a win in the fixture.

He added: "In the last couple of years we have not played well at Parkhead at times, but we have still come away with the points. However this time we did not get away with it. We played badly and certainly deserved to get beaten.

"Records have to be broken some time and I would definitely rather lose to Celtic now than in our last meeting in April. Hopefully we can stay in

son. It will be tough but we have done it in the past."

But Laudrup's openness did not extend to putting to a close the speculation about his plans at the end of the season when his present deal expires.

"I have a very difficult decision to make and I will decide where my future rests sometime in March or April," he said. "I will see out my current contract with Rangers and hopefully help them to win 10 in a row -

Will Carling stay or will he go? A nation yawns

It used to be quite simple. even for rugby players. When the time came for an bonoured practitioner of the 15-man code to call it a day, he would stride purposefully from pitch to bar, order himself a large one and state his intentions, loud and clear and with great good humour. "Thai's it, finished," said Gareth Chilcott, the comically spherical Bath and England prop, after his final appearance four years ago. "I think I'll have a last quiet pint... and about 17 noisy ones."

Since when, things appear to have grown more complicated. Whatever the reasons hehind Will Carling's move to delay any announcement on his future for "another few days", his indecision is clearly final; either he genuinely cannot decide whether he wants to play again or he cannot decide on the hest way to maximise his carnings from the announcement. Meanwhile, a nation

VOWINS. Yesterday, Carling's select coterie of friends and advisors let it be known that "senior players" had "pleaded" with Carling to put retirement on the back hurner and soldier on, presumably for the good of the game. There was no word from the great man himself, of course - at times like this, he makes Greta Garbo look like Clive Anderson, No. rughy was suddenly scratching around in the political spin-doctor's world of hints and murmers, nods and winks, official denials and off-therecord briefings.

The situation has now descended into pure farce. Indeed, it may be the sport's most ludicrous episode since Carling coined his "57 old farts" phrase before the 1995 World Cup - an event that left English rugby gobsmacked, not so much because of the national captain's lack of discretion but because his words were not sold exclusively to one of the tabloid newspapers he purports to despise so much.

Carling was big news in his heyday and rightly so. for he was a formidable centre threequarter and indisputably successful as an England captain who did more than most to transform a cauliflower ear of a minority sport into something altogether more glamorous and universal.

come and gone. It may be pointless to use the "all things must pass" argument to this particular non-passing rugby legend, but an early end to the amateur dramatics would be much appreciated.

Stevenage will resist Magpies' switch pitch

The Stevenage chairman, with the local council to voice feeling, rightly or wrongly, that Victor Green, has promised to their concerns over safety issues. they're going to say the ground keep on fighting for the right to stage the club's fourth-round FA Cup tie with Newcastle at home. Newcastle yesterday launched an appeal with the Football Association to try to get the tie

switched to St James' Park. The Premiership club feels that the Vauxhall Conference club's Broadhall Way ground is not big enough to hold such a tie despite Stevenage putting in extra seating to raise the

capacity from 6,600 to 8,000. Representatives from the Magpies visited Stevenage ear-

European football's governing

body has no right to pick a sin-

gle country to bid for the 2006

World Cup finals, England's

campaign team said yesterday.

the process," England's cam-

paign director, Alec McGiven,

said at the Football Expo '98 in .

Singapore, after Germany had

said earlier in the day that both

countries had agreed to let Uefa

decide which of their rival bids

idea that England and Germany

could be allowed to share the fi-

will host the World Cup.

"Uefa does not have a role in

England counter German

would go forward. Only Fifa, who tempt to reward poor clubs for

have predictably dismissed the nurturing new talent.

playing field," McGiven said, other protracted battle.

claim over World Cup

They now have to decide whether to continue the appeal, but Green is adamant that Stevenage will host the tie on Sunday 25 January.

He said: "The view that I have taken, as everybody knows, is that Newcastle's attitude is that of 'Big Brother'. They're trying to bash the minnow over the head in a David and Goliath situation but I have got a lot more stones in my the tie to St James' Park. sling, so I will keep fighting.

"We have shown them what we're going to do. They can't find ly vesterday to inspect the any objections as far as I'm conground and then had a meeting cerned with our plans. I get the

competing with them in the cor-

misssion said yesterday that it

would thwart any attempt by Fifa

to circumvent the 1995 Bosman

court decision on player trans-

fers. In Singapore on Tuesday,

Fifa's secretary general, Sepp

Blatter, said he would seek

new strategies to restore some

form of transfer fees in an at-

The EU Commission also

ridors of football power."

is not big enough to stage a game of the magnitude of us playing Newcastle, But as far as I am concerned the game will go ahead here because we want it to." If the game is staged at Steve-

nage it will be shown live on Sky television, with a 4.30pm kick-off time. Television rights from the tie should net Stevenage around £150,000, thought to be one of the key factors in not switching Swindon, Stevenage's vie-

tims last Saturday, have put eight players on the transfer list following their FA Cup defeat by the non-Leaguers. The manager. Steve McMahon. has handed free transfers to defenders Gary Elkins, Phil King and Frederic Darras while he wants a fee for Jason Drysdale.

"The club has got to take a hard-line view and if any other "and we now find ourselves players don't give me 100 per cent then they will also be on The European Union Comtheir way." McMahon said.

Ron Atkinson wants a second look at Hamburg's Polish centre-back Pawel Wojtala before pushing through a 22m move to Sheffield Wednesday. Atkinson was impressed by Wojtala when he played for Wednesday's reserves, but wants to see him against better opposition.

Milan, whose Liberian striker George Weah is out for two id it would send a letter to months, have made an offer to nals, can choose which country Fifa, warning its practice of li- Marseilles for Fahrizio Racensing players' agents could vanelli, proposing a player plus "We're quite used to com- contravene EU law, the first cash exchange for the former. Tim Henman said he had peting with Germany on the step in what could become an- Middlesbrough striker.



Ellwood, of Australia, in the Hopman Cup in Perth yesterday

Henman runs hot and cold

On another cold night in the Gulf, Tim Henman advanced to the quarterfinals of the \$1m Qatar Mobil Open with victory

over Guillaume Raoux. It was in straight sets, but not straightforward, as John Roberts reports from

played in colder weather in Peking and had been chilly indoors in Antwerp. He also mentioned that Wimbledon can get pretty cold at times. "You just get on with it," he said. "Coming from England, you're used to it."

A finalist at the Oatar Mobil Open a year ago. Henman advanced to the last eight by overcoming difficulty both with the blustery weather and a strong-willed opponent. Guillaume Raoux, a Frenchman he had beaten in their two previous matches, including the second round of the Australian Open.

"You have to play the conditions a hit, and sometimes you

can be too critical of yourself," Henman said, adding: "I don't think you want to be playing your best tennis right now."

The contradiction there is that Henman did play some of his best tennis at the beginning calls were inconsistent, he was of last year. Encouraged by reaching his first ATP Tour final here in Doha, where he lost relieved to have progressed. to the American Jim Courier, Henman went on win the Sydney International. Ominously, the 23-year-old

from Oxford has lost his opening service games in his first two matches here, and he is well aware that other opponents are likely to make more of the simation than Raoux and Javier Sanchez. "I've got to play my first service game the way I play my second service game." Henman said. "I've got to be more aggressive and go for a bit more.

Henman prevailed last night. 7-5, 6-4, because Raoux, in spite of his powerful wrists. was unable to generate his own pace on the occasions when the Briton was offering him none. "Except for the serve, when Henman hits the ball it is like cotton-wool for me," Raoux

it difficult to play against him. unable to take advantage of ei-Considering the three elements - the wind, the cold, and the bad line-calling - I think we both played a good match." While Henman agreed that the linemore concerned with his own shortcomings on the night and

Having recovered the early break to level at 3-3. Henman cracked Raoux a second time in the 12th game, returning a sec-Frenchman into putting a lob out on the third set point.

it seemed that Henman would cruise through the second set after he broke for 2-0 and then created two game points for 3-0. Unable to secure either of them. Henman then missed a backhand volley to give Raoux a break point. A forehand over the baseline brought the Frenchman back into the contest.

The net cord helped Raoux save a break point in the sixth game, and Henman lapsed into successive double-faults, compounding the errors by playing a torehand long to offer the Frenchman two break points in said. "That's why I always find the seventh game. Raoux was

ther of these, and was denied two more after Henman doublefaulted again at 4-4. On this occasion, the Briton delivered an impressive backhand volley and produced an unstoppable forehand drive. Raoux's prospects of a third

set evaporated in the next game. Unnerved by Henman's forehand drive down the line for 30-30, the Frenchman overhit a forehand and then missed with ond serve and luring the a backhand across the court off a second service return. "It was frustrating to let

him back into the match." Henman said, "but when that happens you've got to deal with it." Which is what he did. Goran Ivanisevic, who is

projected to play Britain's Greg Rusedski, the top seed, in the semi-finals, tottered but survived in an epic duel with Switzerland's Marc Rosset. Having won a first set tie-break. 7-5. Rosset had a match point when serving at 5-3 in the secand set. He double-faulted four times. Ivanisevie adding to the agony by hitting four aces in the next game. The Croat went on to win, 6-7, 7-5, 7-5.

TODAY'S NUMBER 4

The number of times the Olympic Games torch went out yesterday, the first day of its journey through Japan to Nagano, site of the Winter Games.

AROUND THE RESORTS

But that heyday has

- Chris Hewett

approach from Bradford City to go to Manchester City.

ager was approached by Bradford before they completed the has rejected the chance.

Royle has already declined an invitation from the Irish Football Association to take

dismissal of Chris Kamara, but

is still the clear favourite to replace Frank Clark at Maine Road. He is the man that the new City director, Dennis Theart, wants to take charge.

intention of selling Georgi

Royle may be waiting for Maine Road chance Joe Royle has turned down an because he wants a club joh in Richmond, emerged last night

become their new manager. leaving the way clear for him to The former Everton man-

Bradford are also facing disappointment in their quest to lure the Rangers and Scotland midfielder Stuart McCall hack to the club, and Oldham's Neil Warnock, a close friend of the Bradford chairman Geoffrey

England. Despite denials. Royle as the new name at the 10p of their wanted list. The City chairman, Francis Lee, is insisting that he has no

> Kinkladze "We've had no bid of £7m, and if we did we'd refuse it," he said. Lee was reacting to speculation that the Georgian playmaker had been the subject of an increased hid from Everton.

- Alan Nixon

charge of Northern Ireland -SPORTING DIGEST

TENNIS .

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Borg disputes secret deal

Bjorn Borg is taking issue with a television documentary that reported he received \$220,000 (£135,000) to play on Sweden's Davis Cup teams in 1978 and

The documentary, broadcast on Monday, said the money was secretly paid to Borg by the Swedish federation even though Sweden expected athletes to play on the national team without additional financial compensation.

However, Borg says the money was also payment to have him take part in the Swedish Open in Baastad and the Stockholm Open, according to the newspaper Expressen. With those appearances, "the

federation earned quite a few million kronor through me every year," the newspaper quoted him as saying. "That's why it was so important for the federation... to have me in Baastad and play at home

in Sweden. "But now there is a little mistake appearing - that I would get paid just for appearing in the Davis Cup." Borg said, according to the newspaper.

Halle Gebrselessie, the double Olympic champion, will compete in the Bupa Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham next month. The Ethiopian, the first man to run two miles in under eight minutes, will join Britains world triple jump record holder Jorasthan Edwards among the competitors at the Birmingham National Indoor Arena on 15 February.

NBA: Phoenix 81 Indiana 80; Cleveland 100 Houston 70; LA Lakers 100 Vancouver 87; Chicago 90 Boston 79; Dallas 108 Denver 90; Lish 98 Philadelphia 85 (od; Seettle 102 Char-totte 81; Sacramento 105 LA Clippers 89. Cricket

Sheffield Shield (First day of four): Mel-bourner New South Wales 331 for 1 (M Selen 137, R Davison 116 no, C Richards 63 not out) y Victoria.

Equestrianism Asprey will be a major sponsor of The Royal Windsor Horse Show over the next four years. The Bond Street firm is to sponsor the International Orlving Grand Prix (supported by Harrods for the last 16 years) as well as the grand prix for show jumping.

Football Dundee have been told by the Scottish Footbell Association they must find an new date for their Scottish Cup third round the with St Mirren due to be played on Saturday 24 Jenuary, as bundee United are also at home on the same day, playing Aberdeen. United have been given priority as their name came out of the draw first.

Paris St-Germain are to sign the German international defender Christian Worns from Bayer Leverkusen on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling. Bayern Munich, the German chemp-ions, will play a triencily against Coven-try at Highfield Road on 27 January. Crystal Palace are poised to sign the striker Marcus Bent from Brentford for

The French midlielder Stephane Roche, who plays for Lyons, is trainng with Derby County this week.
TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Coca-Cola
Cup quarter-finelis: Reading 0 Middlesbrough 1; West Ham 1 Arsenal 2. Nation-

wide Football League Third Division:
Scarborough 2 Darlington 1 Auto Windacreens Shield Northern second round:
Blackpool 1 York 1 (act; Blackpool win 109 on persities): Carlsie 6 Footbale 1; Gritte
by 1 Hull 0. Postponed: Burnley v Norts
County; Macclesfield v Preston: Wigar v
Rotherham (all playing 13 January) Southern second round: Boumemouth 2 Leyton
Orient 0; Bristol Cry 1 Milwall 0: Exetier 1
Bristol Rovers 2; Swansee 1 Peterborough
2: Welsall 5 Brighton 0 Postponed: Luton
v Brentiond; Northampton v Torquay (both
playing 13 January). Bell's Scottish League
Brist Division: Airthe 2 Partic 1 Postponed:
Harmton v Ayr. Terments Scottlish Cup second round: Airbroath 1 Queen of 3th 1 (Replay Monday 12 January). Postponed:
Clydebank v Montrose. Ryman League Premiler Division: Historic 0 Oxford City 0 Third
Division: Areliv 1 Tird of Cup Second
round: Blaston of Rediction 1 Second-round replay: Dorchester 3 Hasan (0 Third round: Marottle 4 Sussex County League Pra1 United Sussex County League Printing League Roundernouth FC 1 Coves Sports 1
Pontine League Pramier Division: Airhincham 2 League
League: Boumemouth FC 1 Coves Sports 1
Pontine League Pramier Division: Swettel Wednesday 0 Trannere 0. Spanish Cup
Third round second leg: Compostes 2
Alwes 2 (agg: 2-3), French League Cup Second
round: Parts St-German 1 Lyon 0

Ganton Golf Club in North Yorkshire has been named as the venue for the 2000 Curtis Cup match between the amateur womens' teams from Great Britain & Ireland and the United States. The tournament was originally planned for Royal Porthcawl. Australian golfars with a nicotine habit woll a repneve yesterday when tour-nament officials relaxed a smoking ban for this weekend's Victorian Open. Instead of an outright ban, the players have been asked in exercise extreme caution in disposing of their cigarette butts because of the extensive dan-

ond round: Parls St-German 1 Lyon 0

Hockey LOS REYES TOURNAMENT (Barcelona) Final: Carecia 2 Resting 2 (Carecia won 5-1

ger of bush fire in the Melbourne area.

Ice hockey NH1: Washington 5 Toronto 3, Detroit 2 Phoents 0; Prüsburgh 4 MY Islanders 2, MY Rangers 4 Carolina 2; Calgary 3 Colorado 1 ST Louis 5 San Jose 1

LITTLEWOODS (matches played 3 January): Treble chance: 23pts 159,24750 22 22356. 21 12350. 20 1450 VERNONS: Treble Chance: 24pts 175,703.00. 20 1126,25 22 114740 Super shots 1375 Premier 10 110,00 arize 33/42 Premier 10 11/000
ZETTERS: Treble chance: 24pts \$33,0360,
20 19765 ZZ \$2275 21 \$190 Four aways
\$300 Eight homes \$880 Four draws \$33
ZRITTENS: Treble Chance: 23pts \$19650
22 \$320 21 70p. Four draws \$2780 Five
aways \$5 to Eight homes \$450

Rugby League Richard Evens has been appointed chairman of Featherstone Rovers following Steve Wagner's decision to stand down. Wagner will continue as a director of the Rugby Football

SNOOKEF
EMBASSY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
Qualifying (Norbreck Castle Hofet, Blockpool) Minth round: J Delaney (in) to A
Michael (Eng. 1944 C Shade (Soc) to N Manring (Eng.) 10-3, 5 Bingham (Eng.) to N Manring (Eng.) 10-3, 5 Bingham (Eng.) to N Mandman (Eng.) 10-1, M Hallett (Eng.) to I
McPhilips (Soc) 10-6, 1 Sargeam (Mail to S
Day (Eng.) 10-8, 5 Parker (Eng.) to S Musphy (Ire) 10-4, 4 Maganson (Eng.) to S Musphy (Ire) 10-4, 6 Maganson (Eng.) to C Median (Eng.) 10-6, C McGae (Eng.) to C Malletin (Eng.) 10-6, B Rowswell (Eng.) 10-5
Langan (Eng.) 10-6, B Rowswell (Eng.) 10-5
Langan (Eng.) 10-6 (Eng.) to I Wasker (Eng.)
10-6, A Neck (Eng.) bi II Wasker (Eng.)
10-6, A Neck (Eng.) bi II Coles (Eng.)
10-6

10-9 A Neck (Eng) bil D Coles (Eng) TG-9 Snowboarding Snowboarding
WORLD CUP HALF-PIPE COMPETITION
(SI Montz, Swift): Leading men's results.

1 F Stemer (Swe) 804pts, 2 G Symmen
(Swint55; 3 J Soderqvist (Swe)739 4 Nargen (Nor) 735; 5 S B Bruerdon (Sp) 727
Leading World Cup standings: 1 I Fernandez (Sp) 1800pts; 2 D Franch (Nor) 1820,
3 B Carperton (Can) 1800, 4 Symmen 1958;
S Chastragnol 1560, Leading women's results: 1 S Kjeldaas (Nor) 730, 2 M Hessol
(Fri) 720; 3 O Vdal (34 886, 4 N Zurek (Can)
636, 5 N Thost (Gen 607 Leading World
Cup standings: 1 Necklaas 3000pt, 2 Thost
Cup standings: 1 Necklaas 3000pt, 2 Thost
1820, 5 Zurek 1500

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Pertin) Men's Skin open water: 1 A Alzalev (Rus) 55mm 185ee: 2 K. Hurst (Aus) 55:195 : 3 L. Bakk-ni (II) 55.374. Women is 55m open water 1 E Rode (US) 59:235; 2 E van De (Nem 1 00.538; 3 P Buckse (Ger) 1.01058 Se-lected: 17 P Wood (SB) 1 03:560

QATAR OPEN (Dohe): T Henman (GB) bt G Racus (Fr) 7-5 6-4 Andre Agass, the former world No 1, recovered to beat Sargs Sargsian in the Australian Hardcourt Championship in Adelaide yesterday Agass, now ranked its in the world, was down 4-8. 2-3, but came back strongly to beal

the Armenian 4-6, 6-3, 6-3

AUSTRACIAN MEN'S HARRICOURT
CHAMPIDINSHIPS (Memorial Drive, Ade-latid) First round: J Enaposchild (Gen bit Ri-fromberg Jass) 3-6-6-7-5 N Secude (Fin pri A Raduescu (Rom) 6-0-7-5 J Gornard (Ri-bit D Dier (Gen) 6-3-7-5 J Gornard (Ri-bit D Darm (Jze) 7-6-4-6-3 A Agass (US) 16 S Sargsan (Arm) 4-6-6-2-4 G Noerten (Gra) bit Carsten (Den) 7-6-7-5 Second round: N Escude (Fn bit J Johansson (Swe) 4-6-3-6-4 Doubles quarterfinat: W Black (Zm), 3-4 Naszmann) (Aus) bit P Galbrain (US) & A Rust Zmann (Aus. b) P Gathrasi (US) & 9 Steven (FL) 6-46-3 (US) 6 9 Steven (IC) 6-2 6-3

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN'S HARDCOURT
CHAMPIONSHIPS (Hope Island, Gold
Coast): First round: P Schrövder (Swit) br
R Grande (It) 6-4 6-4 E C-h hoviseva (Rus)
IV O Bavabanschkova (Sekn-2-6-6-1-6-1-5I Wang (Ta) br A Sider (Fr) 3-6-6-6-1-6-1-5I Wang (Ta) br A Sider (Fr) 3-6-6-5-3-Secend round: S Parowshi, (Fr) to D Chasheva
(Cz Rep) 6-1-7-5-5-T Wang (Ta) br R McQuifan (Aus) 1-5-6-4-6-4, Mide Swarm (SA)
IV J Kandam (Ger) 6-4-2-6-6-4-Second
round: A Sugvano (Japan) or C Barday
(Aus) 7-6-8-1 Doubles first round: J Lee
(Ta) 8-L Lee (US) (T), Hon (SA) 6-P Suasz
(Ary) 6-4-7-5-A Olssa (Fo) 3-6-Tatarhova
(Ary) 1-7-5-A Olssa (Fo) 3-6-Tatarhova
(Ary) 1-7-5-T

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Bottom
v NETIS COURTY (FO) on League RATE
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Division. Personn City v Cystems Park THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP THIRD round:

MARP LAGER CUP First round, Durden

Basketball BUDWEISER LEAGUE (1990) Stem Wretting Beats 1901 Other sports DARTS Emphasa World Professional Changements (Laterate Club Findley Capen Survey)

SNOOKER: World Champ-prenty qualifiers (National Castly 1855-pool)

HOPMAN CUP MIXEO TEAMS TOURNAMENT (Porth): Austrolia 2 Spain 1 (Austrolia 2 Spain 1 (Austrolia 2 Spain 1) (Austrolia 2 Spain 2 SNOW REPORT

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France - Tion on January	60°.	5.0	70	100	Partito Congres
	Snow Re	Dorts s	uppile	d by	Ski Hotline

Calls to 0891 numbers cost 50p/min; to 08975 nu

CRICKET

West Indies opt for Lara's leadership against England

Brian Lara, one of the most celebrated and controversial characters in international cricket, was named yesterday as captain of the West Indies for the series against England.

Craig Cazier reports from Bridgetown, Barbados.

Brian Lara was named West Indies' captain yesterday for the five Tests and five one-day internationals against England, starting 29 January. He acknowledged he was stepping into a role that is far from easy.

"It's a great honour, but it's a very tricky seat to be in at this moment in West Indies cricket," Lara said. "It is a challenging and exciting role. I'm looking forward to great things from my-

self and from my players." The 28-year-old recordbreaking batsman replaces Courtney Walsh, the fast bowler who led the West Indies in 17 Tests after succeeding Richie Richardson following the 1996 World Cup. The decision represented an about-turn by the West Indies Cricket Board, who

tours of Pakistan and Sharjah in November and December, retaining Walsh instead.

Support for Lara has been growing since the West Indies were soundly beaten in all three Tests in Pakistan under Walsh, a 36-year-old veteran of 96 Tests. It was the first time the West Indies had lost every match of a Test series since 1928 in England. They also lost three one-day internationals to Sri Lanka, Pakistan and South Africa in the Golden Jubilee tournament in Pakistan and were defeated by England in the final of the

Champions' Trophy in Sharjah. Lara has been Walsh's deputy for the past four series against Australia, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. When an injured match against India last March, Lara led the West Indies to victory in his only Test as captain.

A stylish, stroke-playing leftbander, Lara holds the world records for both Test and firstclass innings and is regarded as one of the finest batsmen of his time. He has scored 10 centuries in amassing 4,133 runs at an average of 51.66 in his 48 Tests.

His 375 against England in

rejected the selectors' nomina- the fifth Test in Antigua in 1994 tion of Lara as captain for the eclipsed the record of 365 not out set by another West Indian lefthander, Sir Gary Sobers, Lara followed that six weeks later with an unbeaten 501 for Warwickshire against Durham in the County Championship.

Lara has been groomed for the captaincy since he was a teenager. He led the West Indies team to the first youth World Cun in Australia in 1988, was made the youngest captain of his native Trinidad and Tobago at 20 and led the West Indies A team to Zimbabwe at 21. He will return to Warwickshire in the summer as captain for the first time.

Lara's poor disciplinary record has probably delayed his promotion to Test captaincy. He has been fined or warned for disciplinary reasons four times Walsh missed the Barhados in the past three years. Once he reportedly said he would retire at a stormy team meeting during the 1995 tour of England after a clash with his captain, Richardson, He was persuaded to change his mind, but was fined 10 per cent of his fee.

His most recent transgression came during the home series against Sri Lanka last June when he was fined for report-

Spurs sign Berti from Inter

Nicola Berti was reported to 10th with the club, A member of a signing-on fee from Tottenham have moved from the Serie A leaders, Internazionale, to Tottenham Hotspur, according to

The spokesman would not reveal financial details of the deal, though it was reported that complete a £3m move to north er this season. Inter did not receive a fee. Spurs will pay out the rest of Berti's contract, worth around £350,000 a year.

Berti, 30, had requested a transfer recently because of lim-

the Italian team which reached the final of the 1994 World Cup, Berti has scored 41 goals a spokesman for the Italian club. in 312 games with the Milan club. Spurs' English transfer tar-

get, Andy Hinchcliffe, is set to London from Everton today. The 28-year-old international has agreed terms, and will move subject to a medical.

On Tuesday the Hinchcliffe deal had looked under threat ited playing time this season, his because the player had asked for

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

which Spurs did not seem willing to pay. Hinchcliffe will get a loyalty bonus from Everton in the region of £500,000 for not asking for the transfer, agreed when he signed a five-year deal earli-

However, Spurs' move for Valencia's Algerian international midfielder, Moussa Saib. has been put on hold. Transfer negotiations will not resume until March.

- Ian Rodgers



Alexei Akatiev emerges from the sea after winning the 5km open water event at the World Swimming Championships in Perth, Australia, vesterday. The Russian overtook Australian teenager Ky Hurst about 400 metres from the finish to take the first gold medal of the event

ACROSS 7 Writer makes cuts, refrost, see (8)

portedly approved (8) 22 A cat's not born with en-9 Editor's inwardly badergy (5) 24 Think about new name gered, worn out (6) 10 Kentish fellow's cutting

11 Lean time acquiring the Parisian article of cloth-

12 Course additive, excluding chips etc (10.4) 15 Abolish disc in form of

coin (6) 16 Shruh in plaza, leafing

18 Sporting red braid, a fop 5 is a colourful creature (4,2,8)

for a flavour (6) back branch growths (5) 25 One placing an order in 14 Endless fog on winding general? (8)

DÒWN Ornate iron fret for bor- 17 Corresponded, in more Cast (or threw) one out

It's yours for life (6) Dandy tie, from what we near (4)

Checked most of ice. then fished (10) 6 Remove obstruction in

Reckless type from spree crashed into section of wall (9) 13 Ace? Mine's played in

road American finds risky (9)

effort to prove a point

senses than one (8) 18 Save Knight, finally, with Oueen exchange (6)

19 Building's in a state with fabric full of boles (6) 21 Parting word evokes depression (4)

23 Playing up on right results in a corner (4)

Identity parade: The new-look Williams (right) will be taking on the new Ferrari at more than one level this season Formula One's new twist on Henry Ford – any colour car you like, as long as it is red Murray Walker may well be offering up a quiet word of

again flexed its muscles and so manks that McLaren changed the ofue and write car that has their colours from red and taken both Nigel Mansell and white to silver last season fol-Damon Hill to the world chamlowing yesterday's unveiling pionship in the past decade is of the new Ferrari and no more. Red-packaged Winfield has replaced Rothmans as Formula One's two main tithe Oxfordshire-based team's tle contenders for the 1998-99 main sponsor, and so Walker is season have thrown off their robes to reveal in the red corcreative helmet design to assist ner, the Prancing Horse, tradihis commentary.

The 1998 Ferrain Folly was launched at Ferrari headquar- two world championships at run on grooved tyres, which of is red," Montezemolo said. ters in Maranello, 'taly, yester- Benetton. The car will be pow- give the car less grip. To keep

Tohacco sponsorship has day, with a new objective - win- ered by a hrand new engine by the grooves at the require ning the championship. Luca Montezemolo, the president of Ferrari, said: "This is the first time we can say with firm belief that next season we want to win the championship."

This is also the first time a car has been completely designed and built at Maranello, going to have to hope for some the work of their chief designer, Rory Byrne, and the technical director, Ross Brawn, who work Michael Schumacher to

Paolo Martinelli, who said that it was the first time in years that the engine and chassis department had worked hand in hand.

The application of a little rouge will not he the only change on the grand prix circuit. Motor sport's governing body has introduced several new measures in an attempt to slow cars down and protect drivers. Cars will be narrower, which affects the aerodynamics, and will

depth teams will have to us harder compound tyres, slow ing the cars by about three sec

onds a lap at most circuits. But the question everyboo wanted answered in Marane vesterday was whether Ferrag were bothered about William new guise. "I'm sure that if you were to ask 1,000 F1 fans which was motor racing's red car, the would say Fara i The las colour in the world I'm scare

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PAGE 250

Holiday Inn

Williams grand prix cars.

Binelly executed with a statler

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